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Thesaurus Inscriptionum Raeticarum – new readings and inscriptions

CORINNA SALOMON

In the course of a three-year research project¹ conducted at the Department of Linguistics, University of Vienna, a research team led by Stefan Schumacher has created an online edition of the Raetic inscriptions on an interactive platform of the MediaWiki type. *Thesaurus Inscriptionum Raeticarum* (TIR) is a comprehensive collection of all inscriptions which are generally considered part of the Raetic corpus.² As of 24th June 2016, with the end of the project, the edition can be considered complete and fully citable, though data is still being analysed and annotated.

One of the project's main tasks was the (re-)examination of inscriptions and objects in the original and their documentation in the form of photographs and drawings. All testimonies except the few lost pieces were examined by an archaeologist (Sindy Kluge), an epigraphist (the author) and by the project's draughtswoman (Gudrun Bajc). While, for the majority of inscriptions, the readings given in the respective publications and in printed corpora – sometimes already updated, sometimes going back even to the collections of the 19th century – could be confirmed, the autopsy team has in a number of cases had occasion to correct circumstantial data or alter readings.

All these new data have of course been entered into TIR. The present paper collects the relevant cases for the convenience of scholars interested in

¹ Funded by the FWF – Fonds zur Förderung der wissenschaftlichen Forschung (project no. P 25495, 2013–2016).

² TIR and its sigla system are based on Schumacher's preliminary corpus CIRCE (Schumacher 1992, updated and extended 2004), and includes inscriptions which have been published since 2004. It excludes a small number of new finds, some of which were included in recent printed editions (LIR, MLR), which were judged to be only circumstantially relevant to the study of Raetic – for unambiguous reference, the sigla code "EX" was introduced to refer to these testimonies. For a complete list, see https://www.univie.ac.at/raetica/wiki/Non-script_notational_systems. For more information about the scope of TIR, see <http://www.univie.ac.at/raetica/wiki/Raetica>.

new developments in North Italic epigraphy. The changes range from corrections of simple errors inherited from the older literature (sections 1, 2 and 3) to variant readings of both long-known and more recently discovered inscriptions (section 4).³ Also included are all new testimonies, many of which are not yet published in print (section 5). The paper does not indicate or discuss minor adaptations such as updated information on repositories and inventory numbers, confirmations of readings already given or suggested in the older literature but abandoned by later compilers (e.g. Pellegrini 1918 vs. PID for the Magrè inscriptions), and corrections which have no bearing on the inscription's interpretation or on general issues of Raetic epigraphy and/or linguistics (especially in the case of non-language-encoding inscriptions). Apart from the corrected find places mentioned in section 1, purely archaeological aspects are also disregarded. Complete critical apparatus and commentaries for inscriptions and objects can be found in TIR.⁴

1. Revised sigla codes

NO-18 (previously BZ-18)

The inscription on a bowl with S-shaped profile is listed as BZ-18 (indicating a find place in the area of Bozen) in Schumacher 1992 in consequence of a wrong find place (Entiklar, part of Kurtatsch in the Adige valley) given by Mancini in the original publication (IR 82; see also LIR BZ-12, MLR 42 sub Cortaccia/Kurtatsch)⁵. The index card kindly provided by Stefan Demetz of the Stadtmuseum Bozen, where the bowl is kept, indicates Dercolo as the find place. The siglum has therefore been changed to NO-18, reflecting the find place in the Val di Non. The identical reference number is coincidental. To avoid confusion, the siglum BZ-18 will not be assigned to a new inscription. While bowl and inscription can now be grouped with others from Der-

³ Not included in this paper are readings changed as a consequence of the identification of the character ←↑ ("Sanzeno pi") as tau, as suggested in Salomon 2017 and executed in TIR. Where inscriptions containing this letter are featured for other reasons, the character is transcribed with *t*.

⁴ See <https://www.univie.ac.at/raetica/wiki/Category:Inscription>. For transliteration conventions, see <http://www.univie.ac.at/raetica/wiki/Property:character>.

⁵ Epigraphic editions (PID, IR, LIR and MLR) are at all times cited with sigla rather than page numbers. In Schumacher 1992/2004, the sigla are the same as in TIR.

colo (the inscribed bowls NO-12 and EX-42, as well as one without scratchings, see Kluge & Salomon 2015), the inscription itself remains unclear.

BZ-23 (previously **HU-2**)

The museum find was published by Mancini as IR 69 (“inedita”) sub “provenienza incerta”. However, the object had already been mentioned in an archaeological publication of the finds from the Hochbühel near Meran (Torgler-Wöß 1953, 442 with a drawing of the characters). Schumacher 1992 followed Mancini, using the sigla code “HU” for “Herkunft unbekannt” (see also LIR INC-1, MLR 301 sub “provenienza incerta”); in TIR, it was added to the inscriptions from the area of Bozen (BZ-23). The siglum HU-2 will not be assigned to another inscription.

SZ-89 (previously **HU-3**)

Just like BZ-23/HU-2, this inscription was published by Mancini sub “provenienza incerta” (IR 70; see also LIR INC-2), and consequently listed as HU-3 by Schumacher 1992. The new siglum was assigned following Marchesini, who includes the inscription among those from Sanzeno (MLR 219). The siglum HU-3 will not be assigned to another inscription.

2. Duplication of objects and/or inscriptions

SZ-20, SZ-21

Whatmough in PID lists two inscriptions, no.s 201 and 202, on similar objects. No. 201 √ on the chest of “[t]he half of a dog (?) in bronze” he saw himself in the Tiroler Landesmuseum Ferdinandeum in December 1923. At the same opportunity, he inquired for a “similar piece” (no. 202) mentioned in the notes of his teacher Conway, who had seen the latter in March 1908, bearing a lengthy sequence “along ridge of his back” [sic]. This second piece could not be found during Whatmough’s visit, which is not surprising, as the two objects are the same: the vaguely bulldog-shaped bronze with the inv. no. 13.674 has both the mark on its chest and the strokes along its back.⁶

⁶ Our special thanks go to Wolfgang Sölder of the Ferdinandeum’s Vor- und Frühgeschichtliche und provinzialrömische Sammlungen for his invaluable help with tracing

Whatmough misinterpreted Conway's notes and failed to recognise the row of short strokes applied on the animal's neck as the inscription referred to by Conway's sketch. This duplication not of inscription, but of object and consequently siglum found its way into all later editions (Schumacher 1992/2004, LIR SA-17 and SA-16, MLR 193 and 239), conceivably due to the fact that neither of the inscriptions invites repeated examination.

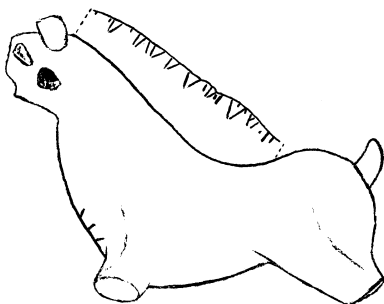


Fig. 1: Zoomorphic bronze from Sanzeno (length 7 cm) with inscriptions SZ-20 and SZ-21. Tiroler Landesmuseum Ferdinandeum, inv. no. 13.674 (repository). Examined in November 2013.

The single character on the animal's chest can be compared with similar isolated characters on inscribed bronzes and statuettes from Sanzeno (SZ-2, SZ-10 ♡, SZ-4.2, SZ-5.2 ✕, probably NO-16 ♠ [p. 53]) – we are most probably concerned with factory marks. The sequence running along the edge on the animal's back, over a length of about 4 cm, is a succession of very short straight and oblique strokes which are not immediately recognisable as letters. Whatmough, based on Conway's sketch, read 𐌚𐌚𐌚𐌚𐌚𐌚𐌚 *pnip-pipia.v.i.*; Mancini – despite conceding that the inscription is “in realtà inutilizzabile” – tentatively suggests *il.nuapisav.i.* or *la.nuep.mav.i.* However, despite the alleged, appropriately word-final occurrence of Venetic punctuated iota 𐌚, the strokes are more likely to be decorative, possibly indicating a mane. The issue must remain suspended until usable comparanda are found and the species of the animal can be determined. A possible connection may be argued with the equally atypical Sanzeno bronze representing a dolphin, which features a very similar and equally dubious row of strokes along the edge on the animal's belly (SZ-13).

the Raetic material in the museum's depots, and also for unearthing the then unpublished finds discussed in section 5.

In TIR, the two inscriptions retain their original sigla as determined by Schumacher in an effort to minimise confusion, despite the fact that, according to TIR rules, inscriptions on the same object should bear the same siglum, followed by a dot and subordinate reference number. The corresponding object is listed as SZ-20 bronze; the siglum SZ-21 [object type] remains unallocated.

SZ-23

Another duplication, this one effected by Whatmough, Mancini and Schumacher together, and perpetuated in LIR (SA-38, SA-41) and MLR (215, 240). Whatmough, again following Conway's notes, published sub no. 204 a calcined "broken fragment" with a sinistroverse inscription reading *ilpsii*, the last three letters damaged. Mancini, during his autopsy sessions in the Ferdinandeum, found four calcined fragments, of which he could only fit two together; he drew them separately, but published them under one reference number (IR 63 I, II, III) – probably because the pieces come together in a little box. Schumacher 1992, who did not examine these minor testimonies, included both Whatmough's no. 204 (as SZ-23) and Mancini's IR 63 (as SZ-64). The fragments in the tiny cardboard box with inv. no. 13.453 as indicated by Mancini were pieced together by our draughtswoman Gudrun Bajc, making possible a reading] \uparrow - \downarrow ll[]ilt[, \uparrow being followed by three scratches of which only the middle parts are left on the smallest fragment. The inscription could then be identified as the one already published by Whatmough.

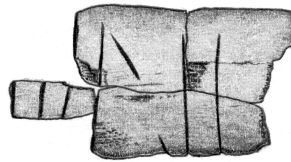


Fig. 2: Antler fragment from Sanzeno (length 3.5 cm) with inscription SZ-23. Tiroler Landesmuseum Ferdinandeum, inv. no. 13.453 (repository). Examined in November 2013. Drawing by Gudrun Bajc for TIR.

Conway's reference to a "broken fragment" indicates that the remains of the object came in separate pieces already in 1908. However, Whatmough writes that the last three letters are only "incomplete at the top", which suggests that more was left of the lower part of the three scratches on the left when Conway saw them. In that case, Conway/Whatmough's reading of sigma must be given attention, though Whatmough calls it "at least doubtful" [sic]; the in-

clination of the bit of line which is left today makes this reading likely. Whatmough is more confident about double iota, though more bars to make a consonant of the second one may well be missing on top or to the left. Despite the comparatively large lacuna before the first iota, the presence of more letters in the beginning cannot be excluded.

In TIR, the inscription is included as SZ-23 (the entry ultimately representing PID 204); the siglum SZ-64 will not be reassigned.

3. Inscriptions removed from the corpus

VR-5

First published in Poggi 1879, 312 ff. (no. 52), the inscription, part of the collection of Amilcare Ancona,⁷ was implied to be lost by Whatmough (PID 248), but was found and examined anew by Morandi 2004, 691 f. (no. 269), who also provided a new drawing (see fig. 3). Pauli 1885, 19 (no. 39) claimed to have the drawing which is reproduced in *Altitalische Forschungen* (Taf. 2,39) from Poggi, but Poggi only gave an idealised rendering of the characters (p. 312).⁸ It is unclear where the drawing in Pauli is really from (possibly Ancona 1880?). It features omicron not quite closed at the bottom (expressly mentioned by Poggi 1879, 313) and followed by a short oblique scratch in the lower area. In the middle, lambda and the three hastae following it are crossed by a long oblique line, which was judged to be an unintentional scratch by Poggi himself, Danielsson 1909, 23 and Rhys 1914, 69 ff., who consequently read $\text{VX}\lambda\text{V}\text{I}\text{O}\lambda$ *koliuetu*. The dot between putative upsilon and epsilon was included as a punct by Danielsson, but dismissed by Poggi and Rhys.

While Poggi did not discriminate between the various North Italic groups, Pauli (p. 56) and Rhys classified the inscription as Celtic. It was Whatmough who sorted it among the Raetic testimonies, based on the observations that Verona lies rather far east of the Lepontic core area and that the form of omicron was typical for Venetic. Disregarding Poggi's reading, he preferred to include both scratch and punct, and suggested $\text{VX}\lambda\text{V}\text{I}\text{O}\lambda$ *kolzi·eθu* with a Venetic form of zeta, despite his own observation that the Venetic features

⁷ Ancona 1880, 32 f., no. 109 and pl. XI, no. 7 (non vidi).

⁸ Pauli's citing p. 90 from Poggi appears to be a mere slip.

do not agree with non-inverted lambda and upsilon. Morandi's drawing shows closed omicron, the small scratch to its left and the punct, but not the longer scratch which crosses the letters in the middle. In consequence of Whatmough's reassignment of the inscription, it was included in Schumacher 1992 and assigned the Raetic siglum VR-5.

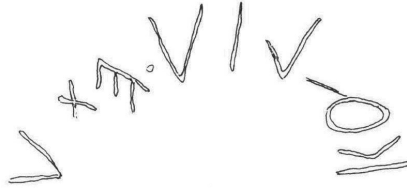


Fig. 3: Inscription VR-5 (in private hands; extensions unknown), from Morandi 2004, 694 (fig. 30, no. 269).

The inscription is written in the Lugano alphabet, with Etruscoid (non-inverted) lambda and upsilon, and omicron (Rix 1998, 10). Raetic inscriptions from the area of Verona have Venetoid inverted upsilon. The punct, if it is part of the inscription, does not hinder its ascription to the Cisalpine Celtic corpus (cf., from the area of Verona, VR-22). If the longer scratch discounted by Poggi and Morandi cannot be used to turn the sequence *iu* into consonant + *i*, the punct cannot be syllabic in any case.

The linguistic interpretation of the text depends on the chosen reading. Morandi reads *koliu:etu*, including the punct, suggesting comparanda for both sequences in the Cisalpine Celtic corpus (arguable *koliu* instead of CO-66 *kopiu*, VA-23 *etu*). Poggi and Rhys read a single word *koliuetu*, comparable with other Celtic names in *-etu* in Cisalpine Celtic inscriptions (VB-23 *kiketu*, CO-48 *plialethu*, NM-6 *sexethu*, VB-2 *oletu*).⁹

It is unlucky that the find place is only known to be in the environs of Verona, since it can be observed that (with the single possible exception of the Spada di Verona, said to be from Ca' dei Cavri) find places of Raetic inscriptions lie on the left bank of the river Adige, while all the known Celtic epigraphic material is from the west. Still, the connections with the Cisalpine Celtic corpus are sufficient to ascribe the inscription to it both epigraphically and linguistically, as done by Morandi and in the literature prior to What-

⁹ The alternative reading *kaliti.etu* proposed by Markey 2006, 157 must be disregarded, since it is evidently based on Pauli's drawing and includes features (the scratch in the middle and omicron open at the bottom) which are discounted by Morandi.

mough. Given that the inscription under its Raetic siglum VR-5 had already been included in *Lexicon Leponticum* for its Celtic content, it was removed from TIR. In keeping with our rule not to make changes in the sigla system which might make indications in the previous literature incorrect, the siglum VR-5 is kept in the list, the respective page linking to LexLep.

4. Amended readings

HU-7

First published by Whatmough in Hanfmann 1940, 32 f., the inscription was only read correctly in 2003 by Schürr, and could consequently be ascribed to the Raetic corpus. The find place of the situla is unknown, it having been retrieved from the Italian art market. In the Rhode Island School of Design Museum's announcement of the situla in 1934, the Etruscan necropolis at the Certosa di Bologna was given as find place, but the reliability of this statement was already qualified by Frey 1962, 1. The fact that a similar object – the Situla Certosa – was found there can either support the claim or challenge it, in that it makes the necropolis a plausible find place for a seller to make up for a decorated situla. In any case, the object can be dated to the third quarter of the 6th c. (Frey 1962, 46),¹⁰ making it the oldest inscribed object in the Raetic corpus.¹¹

The inscription runs along the rim, starting at 0.9 cm to the right of one of the handle fittings (see the drawing fig. 1 in Schürr 2003). It is hardly damaged by corrosion – the situla was restored in 1961 and 1968, but, according to Georgina Borromeo from the RISD Museum, the inscription was not worked on in the process. As first observed by Lunz 1974, 318 f. (n. 961), the reading is impeded by a number of oblique strokes in the lower part of the inscription, disrupting most of the letters (shown in solid grey in fig. 4). As those strokes only occur on that part of the rim which bears the inscription, it must be assumed that someone made an effort to efface or invalidate what was most probably a votive text. According to Borromeo, the secondary strokes

¹⁰ The museum's website is even more specific, giving a dating of 530–525 BC (https://risdmuseum.org/art_design/objects/95_pail_situla).

¹¹ Disregarding BZ-17 on a bronze axe, dated to the 7th until the beginning of the 6th c., which is not connected with Raetic writing.

are “made with a chisel with a wider wedge than that used for the original text” (Schürr 2003, 147). The older readings of Whatmough and Olzscha 1962, both of whom worked only with photos, are largely negligible, as they fail to distinguish between original inscription and secondary strokes. Schürr, in doing so, could segment the text correctly and identify script and language as Raetic.



Fig. 4: Inscription HU-7 (length 13.8 cm) on the Situla in Providence. Rhode Island School of Design Museum, Mary B. Jackson Fund 32.245 (on exhibition). Kindly examined for TIR by Rex Wallace in September 2014.

The first letter must be considered illegible. The discernible elements are a short vertical stroke in the upper part of the line, an oblique bar in the lower area on the right and a shorter one on the left (see fig. 4, made in consultation with Rex Wallace, and the drawing by Borromeo and Leveque in Schürr 2003, fig. 2 c). According to Emily Egan from the RISD Museum, the longer diagonal stroke is part of the letter, whereas the shorter one is one of the secondary strokes meant to efface the inscription. Schürr settles on a small, inverted tau whose bar fails to cross the hasta, which is too much of a stretch, even if no other letter fits the evidence better. The secondary strokes overlaying epsilon and kappa are the only ones slanting downwards against writing direction, but the reading is confirmed by Wallace. Iota is undamaged, followed by epsilon, whose medial bar is overlaid by a secondary stroke. Sigma, again, is undamaged; iota and upsilon are clear despite the strokes. The next letter is a vertical, also crossed by a stroke; both Egan and Wallace could – upon prompting – discern a knob at the top: †. Then, another undamaged iota, and kappa with a secondary stroke overlaying the lower bar. Upsilon is damaged by two or three secondary strokes; Wallace confirms that there is no bar / to make A. Then another hasta with a knob (this one more pronounced) plus secondary stroke, followed by clear alpha, only slightly damaged by a stroke on the left. Of ΜΝ, only the first nu is crossed by a secondary stroke. After the gap, mu, hardly touched by a stroke, then epsilon like

letter 4, then † like letter 13. The next letter is somewhat doubtful: of the two bars extending in writing direction, Egan suspected the lower one to be a secondary stroke, hence Schürr's reading †. Wallace notes that the lower stroke does not look like the other secondary strokes, and considers † possible. Alpha and iota are plausible, though Wallace is again unsure about the identification of secondary strokes. Nu and iota are undamaged; a secondary stroke is situated between the latter and lambda. Finally, epsilon has a secondary stroke overlaying the lowest bar.

ʔEKIESIAIKAIAMIN M̄ETAINILE

ʔekiesiutikutandin metlainile

The letter consisting in a hasta with a point-like head, considered to be a “Kümmerform” of phi by Schürr in reference to VR-3, most probably writes a dental and is provisionally transcribed with *t* (Salomon 2017). We can identify the words *utiku* and *tanin*, accompanied by a Raetic individual name in the pertinentive *ʔekie-si*.¹² We would expect an accompanying surname, typically a patronym in *-nu-ale* – while this is not in evidence, final *-le* in the sequence *metlainile* is most likely another pertinentive ending. The form may be a (non-patronymic?) surname in *-i*, cf. SZ-14 *ʔelituriesi sletile*, IT-4 *piθiavesi ʔurville*, CE-1.1 *lavise śeli*, SL-2.1 *siraku purti* (the latter two in the casus rectus). Cf. SZ-14, WE-3 and maybe SZ-1.1 for disjoined name elements. A tentative translation is ‘*tanin* given by *ʔekie Metlaini*’.

PA-1

Our reading is largely in accordance with the established reading of the long-known document, but a few observations are in order. Firstly, as already seen by Mancini (LIR PA-1), the last letter in line 1 is lambda, not nu as suspected by Whatmough (PID 244). The perceived second bar is the edge of the corrosion pit which damages the surface in the upper area just after the letter; five tiny holes create the impression of a line.

Lambda is inscribed with a punctuation mark, much corroded, in the shape of a short vertical line, as is the final letter, also lambda, in line 2. Whether these puncts should be considered as syllabic puncts or as end-of-line markers depends on the assessment of a few dubious scratches among the first letters in line 1: initial epsilon is upside-down, St. Andrew's cross is

¹² Schürr's *tekie* would find an excellent comparandum in TI-39 *tekialui* from **tekjo/*dekjo-* (cf. Lejeune 1971, 65 [n. 224]).

According to Marinetti's drawing (fig. 7), the greater part of the inscription is unproblematic. The only dubious bit is the group of lines between nu and chi. The drawing shows a slightly oblique hasta followed by two bars on top, almost (?) touching the next (straight) hasta: san M or M ni.¹⁵

YΛY?Y,ξΛY

puz·n?χan

The sequence *z·n* associates this inscription with VR-2 and further VR-10 and VR-11 below, though particularly short *pu* before it makes this questionable. The present inscription would also be the only one of the group to have the sequence arguably representing the verbal form *zinaxe* in the centre rather than at the end. Letters are not usually repeated in Raetic, but cf. *eθunnuale* in ST-1. Neither *puz·nniχan* nor *puz·nśχan* lend themselves to interpretation, though *puz·nśχan* resembles particularly VR-11 in its richness in consonants.

VR-6

First published in Marinetti 2004, 409 f. (no. 1).

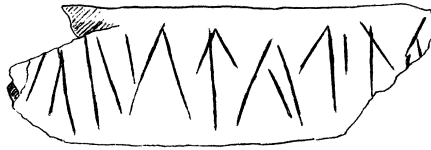


Fig. 8: Antler fragment from Montorio Veronese (length 9.2 cm) with inscription VR-6. Soprintendenza Archeologia del Veneto – Nucleo Operativo di Verona, inv. no. IG VR 61598 (repository). Examined in November 2015.

The sequence *·lapu* in the middle is unambiguous. On the right, the lower parts of two letters are gone. Marinetti's reading M is improbable, given that the bars do not meet, but rather cross the respective hastae. Also, the remains of another line can be seen in the upper area at the breaking edge: alpha, as suggested by Marchesini (MLR 258), is plausible, as is tau for the following letter, although it is turned against writing direction. A syllabic punct would then be in place. After upsilon, three oblique scratches of increasing length – the arrangement is vaguely reminiscent of VR-2 and also interpreted as a ligature of upsilon and alpha by Marchesini (with the last line read iota). *·ii* as suggested by Marinetti is unlikely. The last character on the left is ξ or ξ.

¹⁵ The short line crossing the first hasta apparently represents an unintentional notch.

VR-12

First published in Marinetti 2003, 112 (no. 3). The inscription (length 1.8 cm) is well legible; the letters lambda and pi are unambiguous.

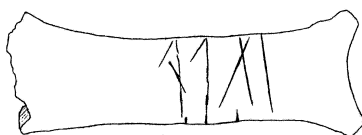


Fig. 11: Bone from San Giorgio di Valpolicella (length 5.5 cm) with inscription VR-12. Soprintendenza Archeologia del Veneto – Nucleo Operativo di Verona, inv. no. IG VR 65204 (repository). Examined in November 2015.

With regard to inverted upsilon used in the area of Verona, \uparrow should be identified as Venetoid lambda, not pi, especially when combined with pi with a pocket \uparrow . An identification of \uparrow as Etruscoid rho cannot be excluded in light of the evidence for Etruscan influence on the local writing tradition (see VR-11 above and VR-14 below), but cf. rho \downarrow in VR-7 and VR-13 (below). The two hastae of putative alpha do not meet, but alpha is more likely than χ .

$\uparrow\uparrow\Lambda$

alp

Marinetti's reading includes three small notches at the bottom of the line, regarding the rightmost one as the bar of a letter Λ , hence the reading *ia(pr)* (followed by Marchesini MLR 121). The other two notches align with the hastae of lambda and pi. All three notches appear to be scratched from the bottom upwards. Their function is unclear, but they are unlikely to be part of the letters. Note, however, the frequent appearance of Λ (rather than forms with oblique bars) in inscriptions from San Giorgio di Valpolicella.

VR-13

First published in Marinetti 2003, 114 (no. 4). The lines (length 2.5 cm) are deeply engraved and well distinguishable, but the execution is untidy, making the reading problematic. The first three letters, despite multiply scratched lines, are clear. The last two letters are disturbed by what are probably unrelated scratches in the lower area. The scratch interpreted by Marinetti as a bar of lambda \downarrow in the second-to-last letter is one of them; an opposition \uparrow pi $\sim \downarrow$ lambda would be surprising in this context and point towards the Etruscan or Celtic sphere.

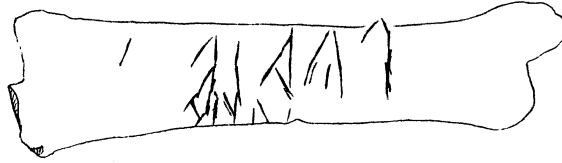


Fig. 12: Bone from San Giorgio di Valpolicella (length 6.6 cm) with inscription VR-13. Soprintendenza Archeologia del Veneto – Nucleo Operativo di Verona, inv. no. IG VR 65200 (repository). Examined in November 2015.

Equally unlikely is Marchesini's (MLR 123) segmentation of the last group of scratches into 1 and 5 written in a pointless ligature. The last letter is more likely epsilon.

λλλ1

larie

The sequence can thus be interpreted as a Raetic individual name in *-ie*.

VR-14

First published in Marinetti 2003, 114 (no. 5). The lines (length 3.2 cm) are faint and each made up of many short scratches.



Fig. 13: Bone from San Giorgio di Valpolicella (length 8.3 cm) with inscription VR-14. Soprintendenza Archeologia del Veneto – Nucleo Operativo di Verona, inv. no. IG VR 65198 (repository). Examined in November 2015.

The first letter is probably 1, though a scratch in the upper area can be seen to its right.¹⁶ The second-to-last letter san features a short vertical line in the upper area between the two bars, whose function is unclear, but the reading seems certain (thus Marinetti; also MLR 124).

λλλ,λλ1

lav:ša

¹⁶ The Sanzeno character ↑ would be out of place in this context, but cf. VR-6 above.

With regard to apparent influence from Etruscan writing practice in San Giorgio di Valpolicella (see VR-10 above), *san* might represent the unmarked sibilant *s* as it does in Northern Etruscan writing, rather than the marked one *ś* [ʃ] as in the Venetic tradition – *san* occurs three times in inscriptions from San Giorgio, sigma not at all. The present sequence might be a variant of the Raetic individual name *lavise*.¹⁷ Marchesini reads the short scratch as iota; on the question of punct vs. iota see VR-10 above.

AS-18

First published in MLR (102). The letters are inscribed on the narrow bottom of the beaker, the tops of the characters pointing towards the foot and taking up the entire breadth of the bottom. The object is restored, but the inscription is written on three different fragments in different states of preservation, with a length of about 7.5 cm.

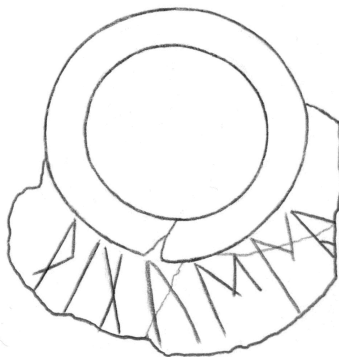


Fig. 14: Fragmentary beaker from Bostel di Rotzo (foot diam. 6 cm) with inscription AS-18. Museo Archeologico dell'Altopiano dei Sette Comuni, find no. 11/8/8 s.f. (on exhibition). Examined in October 2015. Drawing by Gudrun Bajc for TIR.

The first three characters and the upper part of the fourth are well distinguishable on the first fragment. The fourth letter is disturbed by a break; its right half on the second fragment is much fainter, but alpha is plausible. Next, mu is complete, though faint, with a longish and almost straight third bar. Of nu, the hasta and the tip of the angle can be seen on the second fragment, the rest of the letter appears even fainter on the third fragment. After nu, a hasta can be seen on both fragments; two bars extending from it in the

¹⁷ Alternatively, consider the *lariś*-rule for palatalisation of *s* after *i* in Northern Etruscan (Eichner 2011, 76 and 2012, 30 f.).

upper area (the lower part being missing) are hardly distinguishable. No traces of lines can be seen on the remainder of the third fragment, so the inscription may be complete.

ΠΙΘΑΜΝΕ

piθamne

The reading of the well-attested individual name *piθamne* is supported by the evidence of AS-19.1 below.

AS-19.1

First published in Marinetti 2011, 202. The manner of application is identical to that of AS-18 (above). The object is restored, but again the inscription, with a length of about 5 cm, is preserved in different quality on three fragments.

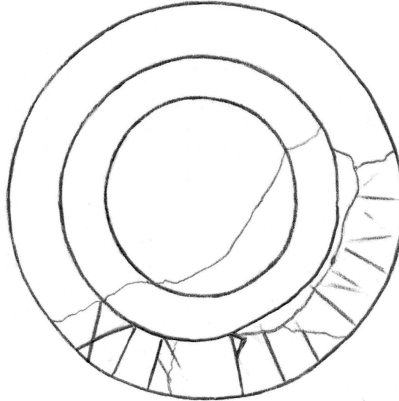


Fig. 15: Fragment of a beaker from Bostel di Rotzo (foot diam. 6 cm) with inscriptions AS-19.1 and AS-19.2. Museo Archeologico dell'Altopiano dei Sette Comuni, inv. no. 320442 (on exhibition). Examined in October 2015. Drawing by Gudrun Bajc for TIR.

On all three fragments, the lines are very faint. Initial pi is clear, the upper bar being just visible on the second fragment. Of iota, also, the lower part on fragment 1 is more easily distinguishable than the top. Of St. Andrew's cross, the lower left bar is clear, the lower right is destroyed by the break, the upper tips are very faint on fragment 2. Of alpha, the hastae are fairly clear on fragment 3, but it is hard to determine which way the bar is turned. Mu is the most doubtful letter, but a hasta and the remains of three bars are distinguishable. The hasta of nu on fragment 3 is very faint, but the upper part

with the angle is comparatively well visible on fragment 2.¹⁸ Both fragments 2 and 3 break off here, but cf. the probably complete AS-18 *piθamne* above.

PIX?M̄M̄[

piθamn[

AS-19.2 consists in the sequence M̄M̄, which also occurs repeatedly on four other beakers from Bostel (AS-20, AS-21, AS-22 [p. 77], AS-23) – probably the mark of a local manufacturer.

NO-3

The inscription has been known since 1888, but our examination yielded two important results.

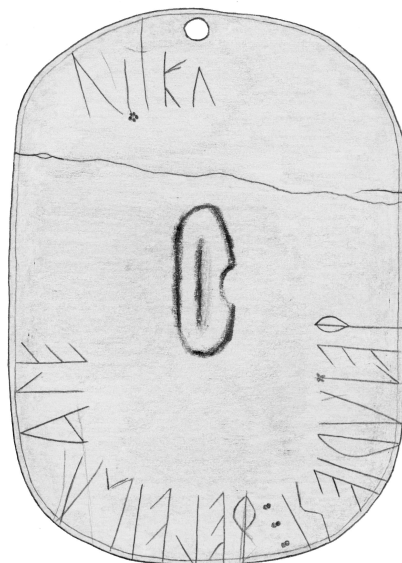


Fig. 16: Miniature bronze shield from Meclo (Valemporga; length 9.9 cm) with inscription NO-3. Castello del Buonconsiglio Trento, inv. no. 4525 (on exhibition). Examined in October 2014. Drawing by Gudrun Bajc for TIR.

The correct reading of the third, offset sequence was suggested by Schumacher 1998, 104: the wiggly line after upsilon features a dot on top, executed exactly like the dots which make up the separator, and is therefore not

¹⁸ Marinetti in the original publication reads *pitanm*[, which would have a comparandum in MA-2 *piθanme*.



Fig. 17: Inscription NO-6 (length 4 cm) on the fragment of a bronze vessel from Meclo (Castellaccio). Castello del Buonconsiglio Trento, inv. no. 6549 (repository). Examined in October 2014.

!KIKV^MAY[

]χamuriri:

The two short oblique strokes after the second iota are usually interpreted as a punctuation mark. The faint scratch between them, which lead Mancini (LIR ME-4) to read sigma ζ, can be verified, but, considering that the other lines are uniformly pronounced and clearly visible, it is unlikely to be relevant. Should -s be the correct reading, we would probably be concerned with a genitive ending; no other interpretation can be offered.

NO-16

First published in Marchesini 2014, 137 f. The inscription is well legible despite corrosion; Marchesini's reading (also MLR 29) can be confirmed. The only dubious point is a character inscribed on the horse's chest on the same side on which line 1 is written.



Fig. 18: Bronze statuette from Cles (Campi Neri; length 6.4 cm) with inscription NO-16 (line 1). Museo Retico Sanzeno, inv. no. CCN 1043 (on exhibition). Examined in October 2014.

The sequence *tianu* is clear, upsilon being wedged in before the bulge which represents the rider's leg. Sigma, comparatively tall, follows after the leg. The character in question has the shape of alpha \aleph , but is not inscribed immediately after sigma – while it might be conjectured that the writer also wanted to avoid the slighter bulge representing the horse's shoulder, its ultimate position seems even more awkward, access being hindered by the horse's head. Marchesini ignores the character in her reading. An interpretation as a manufacturer's mark as often found on bronzes and/or statuettes and frequently on the necks or chests of animals (cf. SZ-20 [p. 34]) is indeed likely from a purely epigraphic perspective, even if an alpha-shape is not otherwise attested in this context.

𐤕𐤕𐤕𐤕 | 𐤕𐤕𐤕𐤕

tianus | *taniun*

The sole reason to remark upon this faint possibility of *tianusa* is the fact that an almost identical sequence *tianusatanin* occurs in SZ-16 and in the problematic NO-2.²⁰ The opaque word *tani(u)n*, despite certain doubts concerning its precise form, is quite well attested without a prefix of any kind;²¹ the putative theonym **tianu* is attested as a benefactive genitive *tianus* in NO-15. *tianus taniun* makes a plausible votive text 'for Tianu (the gift?)'. The significance of *a* between the two words is unclear, making the appearance of the alpha-shape in NO-16 suspicious. Theoretically, *-a* could be a genitive-II ending, but this would mean a casus rectus *tianus*, which has no place in the passive construction of NO-15; also, the generally vocalic auslaut of names makes *tianu* more likely. One might consider a case of recutting, an unusual consonant-final name *tianus* being reinterpreted as a genitive form, but this is not only far-fetched, but also too complex a theory to be based on two attestations.

²⁰ The final letter of NO-2 (or fragment of such) consists in a small tip-down chevron in the upper part of the line. While Franz 1958 read *pianusapau* with the chevron as an oddly misaligned upsilon, Mayr 1960, 389 proposed *pianusapan* with the hasta of nu missing due to a scribal error, comparing SZ-16. Schumacher's idea (2004, 336), suggested by Gleirscher, that NO-2 on a Roman-age object might be a forgery based on SZ-16 relied on his original, incorrect segmentation of SZ-16, but cannot be completely dismissed. While NO-2 starts with the second word of SZ-16 (*tianus*), which indicates a correct segmentation and therefore understanding of the text, it ends with half a letter in the middle of the third word (*tanin*). Even if one does not want to think of an outright forgery, a Roman-age imitation may be considered.

²¹ Beside the present inscription also as the first word in BZ-3 and VR-3, and after *utiku* in HU-7 (above).

NO-17

The inscription was first published by Marchesini 2014, 138, who, while recognising *ketanu* (for her: *kepanu*) as a patronym in *-nu*, failed to identify the sequence *-vale* as the pertinative ending *-ale* preceded by a written glide *v* in hiatus (cf. possible parallels in MA-11, AS-17.1, VR-3).



Fig. 19: Inscription NO-17 (length 4.8 cm) on a bone point from Cles (Campi Neri). Museo Retico Sanzeno, inv. no. CCN 3066 (on exhibition). Examined in October 2014.

The final word, *uipvu* in Marchesini's reading, is clearly *utiku*, though a number of scratches disturb the reading of particularly iota and kappa. The interpretation is clear: a patronym (or individual name in *°nu*) in the pertinative, accompanied by a deverbal form in *-ku*; the inscription can be translated as 'given [vel sim.] by Ketanu'.

VXITVJAJAVYATJX

ketanuvaleutiku

Tau in NO-17 has the more "traditional" shape *†* rather than *┆*: the bar clearly crosses the hasta; in the second instance, it is even longer on the left than on the right side of the hasta. (This is not merely sloppiness of the scribe, as *hastae* and bars do not cross in any of the other letters.) The orientation of the letter, however, with the bar rising in writing direction, is the same as in typical Sanzeno tau (cf. Salomon 2017, 246 f.).

SZ-2.1

The long-known inscription warrants a short remark concerning the character *V* in/below line 2.



Fig. 20: Inscription SZ-2.1 (line 2; length 6.5 cm) on a bronze from Sanzeno. Castello del Buonconsiglio Trento, inv. no. 7671 (on exhibition). Examined in October 2014.

tions of fragment B, but belong together without a doubt. Before alpha on fragment D, the upper tip of an oblique stroke may be detected. Fragment E fits neatly onto fragment A.

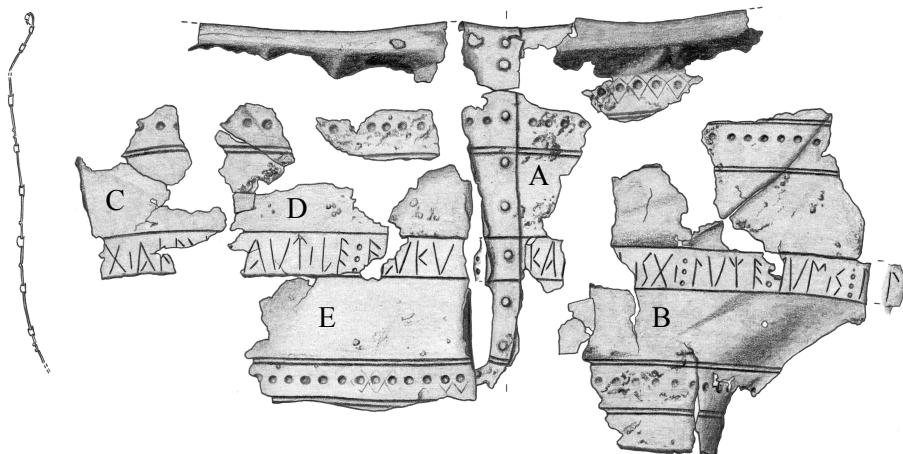


Fig. 21: The fragmentary Sanzeno situla with inscription SZ-30. Length (inscription remains) 24 cm. Tiroler Landesmuseum Ferdinandeum (on exhibition, no inv. no.). Examined in November 2013. Drawing by Gudrun Bajc for TIR.

The characters are neatly and consistently executed, with kappa appearing always with short bars, alpha with the bar rising in writing direction, sigma with the upper angle opening in writing direction, iota shorter than the other letters, and a separator consisting of three dots.

KA??P[?]X[?]V[?]Y[?]E[?]1[?]M[?]B[?]1[?]X[?]A[?]K[?]??[?]AV[?]L[?]E[?]E[?]V[?]K[?]V[?]

ka??isθi:puxē:tumis:p[iʰ]θiak??[?][?]aubile:eluku:

With up to forty-five letters, the inscription may be the longest document of the Raetic language which has so far come down to us. Of the complete words, only *eluku* is attested in other Raetic inscriptions. *puxē* lends itself to various interpretations; the segmentation of *tumis* as a personal name plus genitive suffix is not implausible, but cannot be confirmed in the absence of other attestations of such a name. Only one pertinent form can be found in *)aubile*. Given that hardly any space is available between pi on fragment B and St. Andrew's cross on fragment C, a name starting with *piθ-*, as frequently attested in Raetic inscriptions, might be conjectured.

The fact that the inscription is applied on what was the inward-facing side of the bronze sheet could be taken to indicate that it was a secondary addi-

tion: in keeping with the widespread custom of destroying items intended for consecration, the situla was dismantled and inscribed with a votive text (as suggested by the presence of the word *eluku*) on what had been the reverse, using two pre-existing decorative lines as a frame. However, according to Mag. Wolfgang Sölder of the Ferdinandeum, where the remains of the situla are kept, the turned-up edges of fragments E/A (beside the rivetted rim) and B/C (on the very left and right in fig. 21) indicate that, after the removal of the bottom, the situla was not cut open, but flattened as a whole, so that the inward-facing sides of the sheet touched (a practice known from votive miniature vessels). In this case, the inscription cannot have been applied after the situla's dismantling, but must date from its construction.

We then have to ask whether the inscription was meant to be hidden or whether it was in fact visible from the outside. It is not altogether likely that the strokes would have been discernible on the outside of the situla even before copper rust gathered. However, the positive side seems to have been the face side of the bronze plaque with IT-5, i.e. that inscription was applied mirror-inverted from the back. Like IT-5, SZ-30 is dextroverse – the rarer option – only when looked at from behind, and would have appeared in the more common sinistroverse orientation on the face side of the object. Hidden inscriptions are not unusual in general, but we know no other instances from the Raetic corpus. In either case, the function of the inscription is difficult to determine. The evidence of *eluku* for a dedicational text remains, but would a situla have been constructed only to be immediately destroyed for offering? If the vessel was in use at ritual feasts for some time, a text referring to a sacrifice would not be out of place; the inscription may be placed with VR-3 and PA-1 on bronze implements which are associated with ritual practices.

Judging from the position of the turned-up edges, which must mark places opposite each other, the inscription is well nigh complete. With that size, it would have been constructed out of a single sheet of bronze, with only one rivetted rim. The writer either performed an impressive feat in spacing the text so perfectly that he had neither to squeeze letters at the end nor to leave a space, or the sheet was only cut after the inscription had been applied (thus W. Sölder p.c.).

SZ-68

The inscription (length about 7.3 cm) is embossed on the tang of an iron knife with a punctiform punch, and heavily corroded. A plausible dextroverse Latin reading with alpha and epsilon in Roman cursive form was proposed by Franz 1953, 176 f. in the original publication.

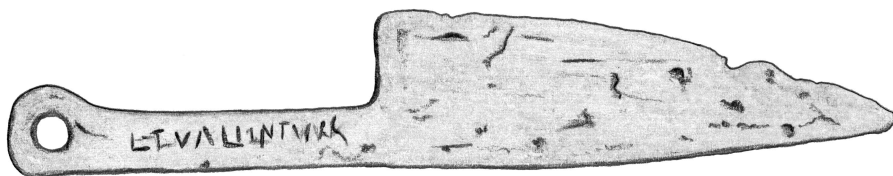


Fig. 22: Iron knife from Sanzeno (length 36.4 cm) with inscription SZ-68. Tiroler Landesmuseum Ferdinandeum, inv. no. 7228 (repository). Examined in November 2013. Drawing by Gudrun Bajc for TIR.

Mancini (IR 67) limits himself to tentatively reading the middle section *valen*. The very end of the inscription is hard to read: two curious wiggles, darker in colour than the strokes before, may or may not be relevant. Franz took the entire group into account by reading UALENTINUS in the nominative with a ligature of upsilon and sigma (illustrated in his drawing Abb. 2). The small indentations of which the lines are made up can still be individually distinguished in some of the letters; they are visible in the vertical line just to the right of nu, but not in the darker area. If Franz' reading is basically correct, a reading UALENTINI with the name in the genitive should be preferred: 'of L. T. Ualentinus'.

LT VALIINTINI

LT UALENTINI

Both readings are possible epigraphically and pragmatically, assuming that the name is that of the knife's owner. Faint traces of probably intentional lines can be discerned on the other side of the tang as well, the only recognisable character being N. They were suspected by Franz to be a repetition of the inscription.

SZ-76

First published in LIR (SA-45). Two short sequences are inscribed on either side of the iron axe, as often found at Sanzeno (cf. SZ-92 *upi* p. 83).

Mancini reads $\mathbb{M} | \mathbb{M}$, but comparison with SZ-62 $\mathbb{M} \downarrow$, also on an axe, suggests a corresponding reading. In SZ-76.1 (length 1.6 cm), both a lower (fine and short) and an upper bar (broad, maybe corrosion) may be distinguished (both lacking the white inlay): \mathbb{M} or $\mathbb{M} \downarrow$. In SZ-76.2 (length 2.5 cm), an upper bar without inlay can be made out: $\mathbb{M} \uparrow$. Cf. $\mathbb{M} \uparrow$ on scythe rings from Sanzeno (SZ-44.2, SZ-45.2, SZ-46.2) and WE-6 (p. 92), as well as maybe $\mathbb{M} \downarrow$ vel sim. on bowls (SZ-57, SZ-60.2).

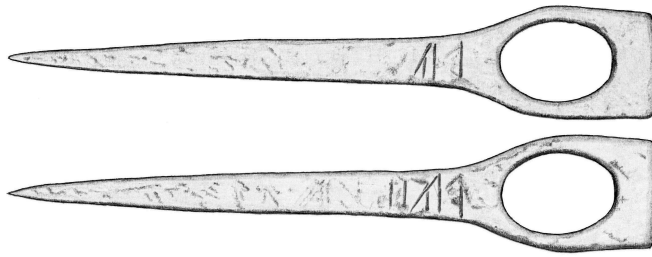


Fig. 23: Iron axe from Sanzeno (length 21.9 cm) with inscriptions SZ-76.1 (above) and SZ-76.2. Tiroler Landesmuseum Ferdinandeum, inv. no. 12.481 (repository). Examined in November 2013. Drawing by Gudrun Bajc for TIR.

SZ-79

First published in LIR (SA-90). Two short sequences, much damaged by corrosion, are inscribed twice on opposite sides of the iron chisel.



Fig. 24: Inscriptions SZ-79.1 (left) and SZ-79.2 (length both ca. 2 cm) on an iron chisel from Sanzeno. Tiroler Landesmuseum Ferdinandeum, inv. no. 13.350 (repository). Examined in November 2013.

Mancini reads $\parallel V$ (only SZ-79.1); Marchesini (MLR 229) also saw the second group (SZ-79.2), but follows Mancini's reading. In both sequences, the three characters are clearly $\parallel V \text{ } \pi$, the putative factory mark found repeatedly on iron implements from Sanzeno (cf. SZ-88, SZ-92, SZ-93 p. 81 ff.). In SZ-79.1, the bar of π is hardly distinguishable due to heavy corrosion, but it is quite clear in SZ-79.2.

SZ-97

First published in MLR (142). The antler piece is broken into multiple fragments (now restored), damaging the inscription; heavy surface abrasion also impedes the reading.

The clearest letters are chi and sigma in the middle. To the right of chi, three lines cannot be arranged into anything but \mathcal{A} , though they do not even come close to converging. This putative alpha may be the beginning of the inscription.



Fig. 25: Fragmentary bone grip plate from Sanzeno (length 6.9 cm) with inscription SZ-97. Soprintendenza per i beni culturali della Provincia autonoma di Trento – Ufficio beni archeologici (no inv. no.). Examined in November 2015.

Further to its right, at a distance of about 0.5 cm, are two near-vertical lines; both are made up of two lines each, which do not quite meet – possibly \backslash ? Another line, broader and deeper than the others, is situated over the right one of the two drilled holes on this end – maybe some type of decoration? The letter to the left of sigma is read as san \mathbb{M} by Marchesini, but the hasta on the left, damaged by a break with a lacuna on top, does not meet the bar (the very tip of the bar is visible on the fragment on the left). \mathbb{M} ni is also more plausible phonetically. The last letter is either \mathbb{V} , \mathbb{V} or \mathbb{M} , the remains of a second bar being clearly visible.

$\mathbb{M}\mathbb{V}\mathbb{V}\mathbb{M}(?)$

$(?)\alpha\chi sni?[\mathbb{M}]$

The drilled hole on this end of the object is situated under the bars of this last letter, so the inscription can miss one or two letters at most (unless it went on on the other grip plate). No interpretation suggests itself.

SZ-98

First published in MLR (143). The inscription is written in two lines in reverse boustrophedon (both sinistroverse, one inverted). The surface is hardly damaged, the lines are well distinguishable.

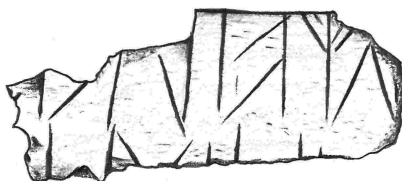


Fig. 26: Fragmentary bone grip plate from Sanzeno (length 4.4 cm) with inscription SZ-98. Soprintendenza per i beni culturali della Provincia autonoma di Trento – Ufficio beni archeologici (no inv. no.). Examined in November 2015.

In line 1, which runs along that side of the object whose original edge is partly preserved, the first letter is definitely alpha, with the top missing. Chi, with only the bar on the right slightly damaged, is also clear; both its bars are tidily scratched twice. Waw and iota are complete. The object is broken along the upper part of the hasta of lambda. Next, the lower part of a hasta, which can only be another iota, is followed by the lowest bar of sigma (not epsilon as read by Marchesini) – the very tip of the middle bar of sigma is just discernible. Before the drilled hole, the remains of another hasta can be seen; a short segment of the breaking edge above the hole clearly represents the remains of a bar – hence hardly iota (MLR), but probably kappa (see below).

Of the letters in line 2, only the lower parts are preserved. The letter right after the drilled hole, maybe the first of the line, is probably ᾱ or ᾷ. Of the other letters, only the very tips are left, but the following two can hardly be anything other than | and X. Next, two hastae rather close to each other, which suggests a reading as iota for the first one; the gap after the second one indicates the presence of bars. After that, another two hastae close together – another iota?

??] |X|1 [|]X|J|AY M[
]axvilisk [|]piθi [??

For line 2, an individual name in *piθ-*, quite possibly *piθie* (e.g. MA-6) is a feasible conjecture. The reading of line 1 is supported by the comparison with SR-1 (line 2)]skesa~~x~~viliske.

BZ-10

A thorough examination of both sides of the long-known slab was recently conducted by Marchesini (2014b).



Fig. 27: Inscription BZ-10.1 (length 50.5/24 cm) on a slab of porphyry from Pfatten (Stadlhof). Tiroler Landesmuseum Ferdinandeum, inv. no. 8.636 (on exhibition). Examined in November 2013. Drawing by Gudrun Bajc for TIR.

Marchesini favours an interpretation of the text which largely follows Markey 2000; I would like to suggest an alternative for the reading of the first letter in the second sequence. The letter in question consists of a hasta surrounded by three lines which may qualify as its bars: one on the left side, extending from the tip of the hasta, one on the left side in the lower area, almost touching the hasta, and one on the right side at half height, at a little distance from the hasta. The letter is traditionally read as waw \mathfrak{w} , which takes into account only the the more convenient one of the lower lines; the scratch on the right is either ignored or interpreted as a punctuation mark. By excluding both the lower “bars”, one achieves a reading as pi \mathfrak{p} .

? \mathfrak{p} \mathfrak{p} \mathfrak{A} \mathfrak{J} | V \mathfrak{M} AXI \mathfrak{I} \mathfrak{J} X \mathfrak{A} \mathfrak{M}

tnake pi θ amu | *lape*?

A word *pi θ amu*, in contrast to unparalleled *vi θ amu*, could be compared to well attested *pi θ amne* vel sim. – a patronym in *-nu* with simplified nasal cluster to accompany the individual name *tnake* is the most likely option for the second word in any case: ‘Tnake Pi θ am[n]u’? The two short scratches do, however, look intentional; the suggested alternative reading must be considered uncertain.

The character after *lape* has traditionally been read as *san*, but *san* never has this shape in the Raetic inscriptions; more likely, this is a sign marking the end of the inscription (Schumacher 2004, 341 f.).

The characters on the reverse (BZ-10.2) are hardly legible due to weathering and the fact that this side of the slab was not smoothed (Marchesini 2014b, 208). Autopsy was impeded by the fact that the slab is currently on exhibition, attached to the ground with its back to a wall, but the photograph provided in Marchesini’s publication confirms both that no further traces can be made out in the vicinity and our own suspicions concerning the unequality of the traces as seen on Marchesini’s photo – some deep and broad, some more fine and shallow and white in colour. We agree with Marchesini on the latter being hardly old, and of no relevance to the reading. As observed by Marchesini (p. 208), the eroded lines are best interpreted as the letters \mathfrak{M} . They might be marks of some description (Marchesini 2014b, 204), but are in our opinion more likely to correspond to the beginning of the inscription proper on the other side of the slab – the writer may have tried his instrument in an inconspicuous spot before starting on the text, which would indicate that some importance was accorded to the inscription and its proper execution. An interpretation of BZ-10.1 as a funerary inscription is highly likely, provided that the slab was indeed found resting horizontally on two

large stones, covering a grave with an urn, as reported and drawn by the excavator Pescosta (original drawing in Marchesini 2014b, 205 [Taf. 1]). *tnake piθamu* or *viθamu* may well be the name of the deceased, but without the meaning of *lape*, it is hard to determine the function of the text securely.

WE-4

First published in Tecchiati et al. 2011, 40 ff. The letters are impressed tidily into the wet clay along the shoulder of the olla between the edges which separate this section from neck and bottom. The original length of the inscription cannot be determined. The lines are about 1.5 mm in breadth; the order in which they were impressed can be clearly seen – it is generally what may be expected, though in some letters the hasta was added after the bars (chi, first epsilon), possibly an attempt at extra neatness.



Fig. 28: Inscription WE-4 (length of the remains 15 cm) on the fragment of a ceramic vessel from Stufels. Amt für Bodendenkmäler Bozen, inv. no. B53 (repository). Examined in November 2014.

A half-circle in the upper area remains of the letter before nu – quite possibly Q as suggested by Morandi in the original publication (p. 50), maybe phi O . After *eluku*, the fragment is broken at the top, but, for another 2.5 cm, the remains of letters can still be seen. A space of about 5 mm separates upsilon from a crack going towards the bottom right, which appears to obscure a line; then the tip of a line pointing bottom left – most probably X . This is followed by the lower part of what can only be A . Alpha, as read by Morandi, is hardly possible. The small space between upsilon and St. Andrew's cross may be inadvertent, an actual space, or may have held a small separator in the middle of the line. Since there is no word separation in the preserved part of the inscription, a space or separator would indicate that $\theta e[$ is the beginning of the inscription, and *eluku* its end, though this presupposes considerable foresight, layout-wise, on the part of the writer.

$\text{JAX(?)}\wedge\text{X}\wedge\text{JAA}\text{f}\text{R}\text{AY}\text{M}[\text{?}]$

$\text{?}[\text{nixesitaeluku(?)}\theta e[$

As observed by Morandi, the text of the inscription can be compared to that of BZ-4, which commences with the sequence *tevaśniḡesi utiku ~ ?]niḡesi ta eluku*. The letter before nu in WE-4 is clearly not san, which suggests a segmentation of *tevaśniḡesi* into *tevaś* and a pertinentive form *niḡesi*, unless we are looking at compound names with *-niḡe* as the second element. In WE-4, the pertinentive form is separated from the deverbal form in *-ku* by a short sequence *ta*, probably the demonstrative pronoun known from Etruscan²² – see below on IT-5.

PU-1

Written in two lines on the back of a girdle plate (upside-down when the plate is worn), the inscription is in very bad condition. According to Pellegrini 1959, 194, the object had been polished since the original publication (Pellegrini 1951b, 11 ff.), which led to the characters being “quasi svanite” – while the situation is not quite that bad, a reading is difficult without the help of the drawings made before the cleaning, provided by Pellegrini. His 1952 facsimile (p. 542) is truer than the original drawing by G. B. Frescura (in Pellegrini 1951b, 11), which features some curiously angular letters; the overall best representation in the older literature, however, is the one by Lunz (1981, Taf. 86). The letters are mostly tall and slender, bars tending to be applied close to the top, with prolonged hastae towards the bottom. They are slightly inclined to the left, but tidily scratched.



Fig. 29: The Lothen belt plaque (length 37.3 cm) with inscription PU-1. Museo Mansio Sebatum (on exhibition, no inv. no.). Examined in November 2014. Drawing by Gudrun Bajc for TIR.

²² While a segmentation *]niḡes ita – ita* being the Archaic Etruscan variant – is theoretically possible, the comparison with BZ-4 makes it unlikely. See also De Simone 2013, 60.

Despite the unusual ductus and faint lines, most letters are quite clearly identifiable. In line 1, chi is very faint, but clear; alpha is rather broad and comparatively well visible. The third character consists of a short hasta, two parallel lines slanting down, and another two slanting upwards again, intercrossing with the first pair. Pellegrini originally read mu μ , misinterpreting the upper one of the first pair of bars as a third bar. If anything, nu ν is more likely, and no other letter suggests itself, but lines crossing or being repeated do not occur anywhere else in the inscription. Phi and epsilon follow after a comparatively wide gap; lambda is all but vanished, but may be seen using the right light.

The next letter can be confirmed to look as Pellegrini drew it (λ), but the identification as sigma is not plausible: the central vertical is full-length and perfectly straight; the two bars – not meeting in the centre – touch, but do not cross it. The letter looks too neat to be a wonky λ , quite apart from the fact that sigma appears in its four-stroke variant twice in the inscription. As already observed by Schürr 2001, 214 (n. 30), an identification of the letter as a variant of zeta is more likely. An identical form is attested in a linguistically Celtic, but alphabetically isolated inscription from Ptuj in Slovenia (Eichner et al. 1994, 135).

The increasingly tall letters from upsilon to sigma are clear. Pellegrini saw a punctuation mark \cdot at the bottom of the line, parallel to the lowest bar of λ ; this could not be certainly confirmed in autopsy. The distance between sigma and kappa is not bigger than average. Kappa is damaged by a vertical crack, but unambiguous, as are the following letters in line 1. From the first heta on, the letters get thinner and slightly shorter – the writer appears to have tried to save space. This begs the question of whether more letters might not be found after lambda. Pellegrini (1952, 542 ff.) saw sigma; no opinions can be offered today, as the area appears to have been polished particularly scrupulously.

In any case, the group of scratches right below the last letters of line 1 is not a continuation of the line, pace Mayr 1960b, 495, Ribezzo 1953, 470 and Mancini (IR 99), who read the character and its two almost identical counterparts, situated in the middle of the other short side and in the centre of the plaque, respectively, as various letters. Pellegrini interpreted them as the Etruscan numeral \vee l ‘51’ (or ‘53’, depending on whether one factors in the varying number of small scratches within the chevrons), and compared the last group of lines in SZ-15.2. The positioning of the characters rather indicates their being independent of the text, probably non-script (cf. Vetter 1954, 79).

In line 2, the letters start right behind the latter of the abovementioned symbols – apparently to avoid it, which indicates that the symbols preceded the application of the inscription. The lower bar of kappa is very faint. The third letter is upsilon, not alpha \aleph as originally read by Pellegrini. The fourth letter is another eccentric assembly of lines (see fig. 29), not entirely unlike the one in line 1. Pellegrini again read nu ν , for the sake of obtaining a sequence *kla*n to compare with Etruscan *clan* ‘son’, but, again, the identification of the character is far from certain (unless one opts to assume that the writer just couldn’t master the letter nu). The rest of the line is unambiguous; sigma is retrograde in opposition to sigma in line 1.

ΥΔ?ΦΕΥΛΝΔΙΒΣΚΑΓΑΝΕΠΔΝΜΙΑΝΙΙ(?) | ΚΠΝ?ΧΝΔΝΣ

χα?φελzurieskalaheprusiahil(?) | klu?θurus

The belt plaque can be dated typologically to the 5th c. by its figural decorations – two deer – which are known from the iconographic programme of situlae (Lunz 1981, 22). The inscription is epigraphically notably different from any other in the Raetic corpus, though the alphabet can be classified as Venetoid/Magrè-style by inverted upsilon and lambda, and pi with a pocket. The forms of sigma, heta and san are assumed to be archaic by Pellegrini and Vetter 1954, 78. Four-stroke sigma occurs elsewhere only the more peculiar type of prevalently dextroverse Raetic rock inscriptions (ST-5, ST-6 below). It is very rare in Venetic, only occurring in the south, but less so in the Lugano alphabet; Pellegrini considers it an Etruscan feature. Heta \aleph with three bars is archaic only in Venetic terms; in Raetic context, without regard to its comparative rareness, it is the variety typical for the Magrè alphabet (in contrast to \aleph in the Sanzeno alphabet). Double-pennon san \aleph , on the other hand, is isolated in the Raetic corpus (the comparanda from Magrè and Verona mentioned by Pellegrini are non-existent); it does, however, parallel the development of san in the Lugano alphabet (see LexLep²³).

As concerns letters for obstruents, the inscription features pi beside phi, kappa beside chi, and St. Andrew’s cross beside zeta. If tau just happens to be missing, the presence of zeta would indicate the Etruscan alphabet, but, with regard to the Venetoid letter forms, a reading according to the Venetic Este alphabet, where zeta writes /d/ and tau is absent, is more likely.

The inscription’s linguistic content is mostly opaque – Pellegrini’s complete, though tentative, interpretation of the text as an Etruscoid sepulchral inscription certainly goes too far. The ending of line 1 might be compared to

²³ <http://www.univie.ac.at/lexlep/wiki/Ś>.

that of PA-1 *akvil* – even if *ahil* is not the same word, the ending may suggest a noun; Mancini (LIR SLO-1) identifies the trace after lambda as a punctuation mark on the basis of this comparison (see on PA-1 above). Pellegrini compares Etr. *avil* ‘year’ (to go with his numerals). More reliably, we have auslauting -s twice in the text (*φelzuries*, *klu?θurus*), probably marking genitives – both sequences qualify as individual names: for *klu?θurus* cf. IT-2 *χaisurus*, SZ-16 *laθurusi*, VR-10 *laθur* with the same suffix -uru- (Schumacher p.c.); for *φelzuries* cf. NO-3 *φelturiesi* (above), SZ-14 *φelituresi*. If PU-1 is indeed written in the Este alphabet or an alphabet which employs the same orthographical rules, {*φelzuries*} spells [belduries] vel sim. – by virtue of the name’s multiple attestation, this reading has consequences for the reading of the characters for dentals in the Sanzeno alphabet.

IT-4

The large and elaborately carved (and sadly fragmented) piece of antler was found in the cellar of a house in the settlement on the Pirschboden near Fritzens (North Tyrol). The house is assumed to have been destroyed in the course of the Roman Alpine campaign in 15 BC (Tomedi 2001, 32), but the object is likely to be rather older than that. With a length of 31.5 cm, it is carved out of a single unusually large piece of a red deer’s antler (*cervus elaphus*; not an elk’s, as ascertained by Tomedi 2001, 31 in consultation with a palaeozoologist). Curved in a slight S-shape, it is partly decorated with radial-eye pattern and ends in the idealised shape of a horse. In the centre, it is pierced by a thick iron peg; protruding on the same side as the peg are the remains of seven smaller bronze pegs.

Tomedi 2001, 31 suggests that the piece is part of a musical instrument, for example an angle harp or a Scythian lyre. However, attempts at reconstructing such an instrument by a specialist for historical music have not so far yielded any instructive results.²⁴

The inscription, first published in Schumacher 2004, is engraved on the side opposite the metal pegs, starting at the non-horse-shaped end. The sequence is sinistroverse and about 9 cm long, with the letter height varying slightly between 0.9 and 1.3 cm. It is damaged by one vertical and two horizontal cracks and by abrasion (most heavily in the lower part of the middle section). Two lacunae impede the reading after the first five letters and after the vertical crack before the last three letters.

²⁴ Thanks to Albin Paulus for sharing his expertise.

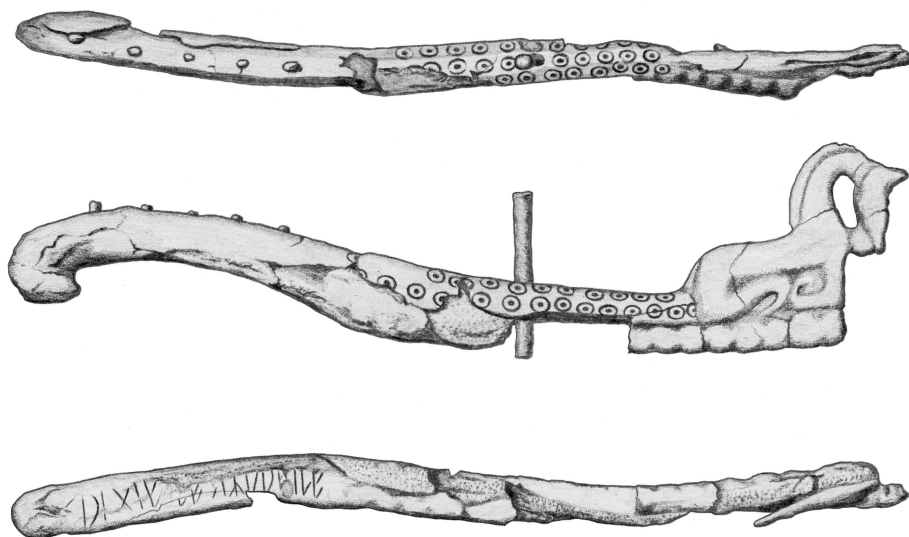


Fig. 30: Carved antler object from Fritzens (Pirchboden; length 31.5 cm) with inscription IT-4. Museum Wattens (repository, no inv. no.). Examined in November 2013. Drawing by Gudrun Bajc for TIR.

Most of the letters before the first lacuna, notwithstanding a crack along the upper parts of the first three letters, are legible without difficulty. The pocket of the first letter Q does not reach the hasta at the bottom – it is not rho, but Venetoid near-closed pi as may be expected in North Tyrol (cf. IT-8 and possibly ST-2 below). Partly damaged by abrasion on the left, the fifth letter could be alpha A , or epsilon E with the third bar gone – broader alpha is more likely, as it fills the space before the next letter, of which only the upper angle of a hasta and bar are visible on a smaller fragment which fits on top of the abraded main one. It is followed by just another such angle whose scratches are continued clearly on the main fragment: epsilon E or waw W , the lower part damaged by abrasion. Like this one, the following characters are damaged both at the top by the crack between the main and the smaller upper fragment and by abrasion in the lower part of the main fragment. Next, an oblique scratch slanting down from right to left is probably the upper third of sigma S . The following stroke can then only be read as iota I , since the next group of scratches can be identified with reasonable certainty as chi X . After chi, the small fragment which completes the characters at the top breaks off. Of the next two letters, only the very tips of which are missing, two large angles are left: the first with two oblique scratches – probably upsi-

lon Λ , as in case of alpha a trace of the bar should be left –, the second with one straight and one curved line, which could be rho ρ or pi ρ . Right before the vertical crack, the remains of a hasta with the trace of one bar (epsilon ϵ or waw \mathfrak{A}) are distinguishable, followed by the second lacuna. On the next fragment, a single vertical line can hardly be anything but iota ι ; the last two letters are only slightly damaged $\mathfrak{A}\iota$. The latter part of the reading (from chi onwards) is supported by the identical outcome of Marchesini's independent examination (MLR 43).

Assuming that the last two letters represent the pertinentive-II ending *-le*, *-si* (pertinentive I) in the middle of the sequence serves to mark the ending of the first word. What is left of the sixth letter can qualify as the remains of waw \mathfrak{A} , which yields the individual name *piθiave*^o, attested in CE-1.3.

$\mathfrak{A}\iota\iota\mathfrak{A}\rho\Lambda\Upsilon\iota\mathfrak{A}\mathfrak{A}\iota\chi\iota\iota$

piθiaveṣixurviḷe

The text can thus be interpreted as a Raetic two-part name formula: *piθiavesi xurviḷe* 'by Piθiave Xurvi'. The surname features the pertinentive allomorph *-le* and lacks the typical patronymic suffix *-nu/-na* – it may be another instance of a surname in *-i*, as suggested for HU-7 *metlaini-le* (above). Like the other classifiable inscriptions from north of Brixen (apart from IT-5 below), IT-4 is written in a Venetoid alphabet, with inverted upsilon and lambda, and pi with a pocket.

IT-5

Found at the burnt-offerings site Demlfeld near Ampass, the inscription was first published in Tomedi et al. 2006, 119 (Abb. 7) with a preliminary reading by Schumacher, and fully in 2013 in a monograph (De Simone/Marchesini 2013).

The letters are neatly and regularly embossed on the thin bronze sheet. The traces of nails around the holes left on fragments B and D (in the lower right and left corners) show that the reverse was the face side. The inscription is framed and lined with rows of puncts, the lines being connected with vertical rows which serve to separate words and mark the end of lines. Sections without letters of different size are consequently situated on the left side of the plaque. If, as Marchesini 2013, 45 assumes, the uppermost horizontal line of puncts on fragment C represents the line delimiting the inscribed area on top, less than half of the inscription is missing. Our reconstruction of the plaque differs from Marchesini's insofar as we think that the small fragment G fits

with the main fragment D as shown in fig. 31. Fragments G and E do not fit together, as assumed by Marchesini, they merely both have breaking edges along straight hastae. Fragment E, unless it fits in right above the left-hand lacuna in line 3 (between fragments A and B), must be part of line 1.

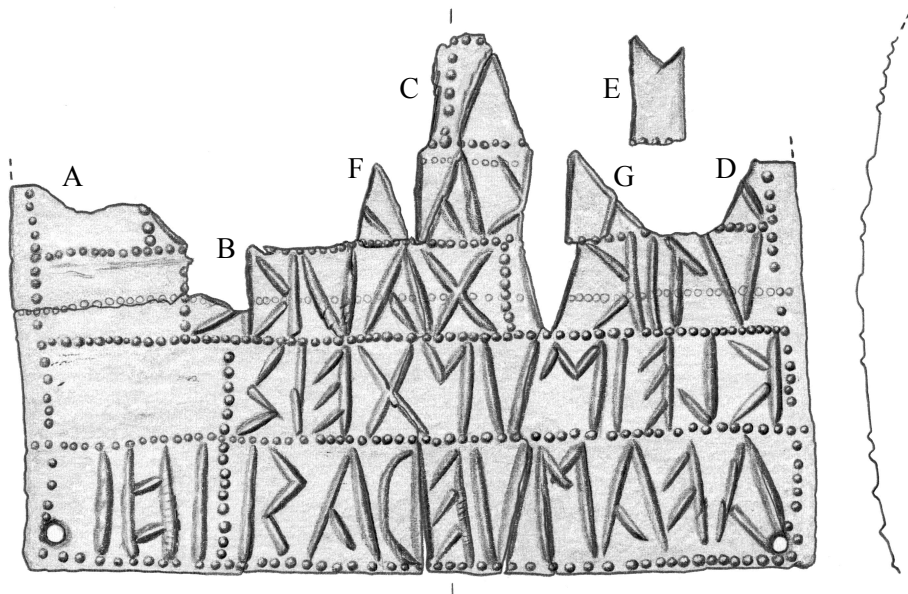


Fig. 31: Bronze plaque from Ampass (Demlfeld; length 10.3 cm) with inscription IT-5. Abteilung Ur- und Frühgeschichte der Universität Innsbruck. Examined in November 2013. Drawing by Gudrun Bajc for TIR.

Fragment E, broken along all available lines, shows either san \mathcal{M} as in line 5, or \mathcal{M} . Otherwise of line 1, only a single letter is left (on fragment C), broken along its left hasta and followed by a row of puncts. Its identification is problematic, as it can be nothing else but Λ , yet upsilon is Sanzeno-style ∇ (going with lambda \downarrow and tau \mathcal{T}) in all five other instances on the plaque.

The first letter of line 2, on fragment D, can only be \mathcal{X} – the entire breaking edge is bent, indicating an oblique hasta; a crack runs along what is left of the other hasta. Another St. Andrew's cross follows after a lacuna of one, possibly two letters, partly preserved on fragment G. Also on G, the bent breaking edge on the left indicates either a hasta or a row of puncts. The first letter after the lacuna, on fragment C, is kappa, broken along the hasta, followed by alpha and another bent edge, either a row of puncts (Marchesini) or iota. Next, fragment F, broken off along both hastae, shows another alpha.

the base, connecting it with the IE root **klej-* ‘incline’ (**kleimôn* via Celtic or Venetic; Eichner 2012, 37). While Eichner assumes that *-ta* refers to inanimate nouns, De Simone translates (isoptotic) ‘by this *kleimun*’, the base being the name of a person or institution.²⁷

Another possible ablative form is now found in *θaukis*, standing right before *kleimunθeis*. For the base cf. SZ-9.1 *θαυξριλινα* and SZ-87 *θαυξκαανα* (segmentation?) – an onomastic element? With the meaning of the base unclear, the form may be an ablative I of a stem in *-i* agreeing with *kleimunθeis* – e.g. ‘by/from *Θauki* from the hill farm’ (going with Eichner’s etymology, but isoptotic construction) – as well as a genitive I.

The functions of the forms in the text are not quite clear either. De Simone interprets *kleimunθeis* as an indication of the votive’s sponsor (‘[commissioned] by him who is X’). If an attribute, the auctor’s name may be given in the potential ablative *θaukis* (‘[commissioned] by *Θauki*, [he] who is X’). Eichner (p.c.) assumes that the votive was paid for with the yield of the donor’s (or sponsor’s) mountain farm (‘from that which is from the slope’; with a putative comparandum *arai tiz* ‘from the yield of the soil’ on the Kaminia stela, see Eichner 2013, 37). In the latter case, the formally ambiguous *θaukis* may as well be a genitive in any of its possible functions. According to De Simone, the pertinentive form *avaśuerasi* marks the beneficiary. Usually in Raetic inscriptions, it is the two-part Raetic names of the donors which appear in the pertinentive, while the recipient or beneficiary appears in the genitive. Then again, the shorter votive texts may just not mention sponsors. Indeed, it must be assumed that this particular, rather unusual document uses a different formula – the presence of an ablative form certainly suggests this. In any case, without the complete set of endings in the text, it is hardly possible to determine the function of the attested ones. *ihī* is interpreted as a numeral or mark by Marchesini 2013, 50. While this is not impossible, and no comparanda from Etruscan suggest themselves, an adverb or pronoun cannot be excluded.

The inscription IT-5 is the only one in the Raetic corpus on a bronze plaque, comparable not to Raetic, but to Venetic and Etruscan finds. Inscribed specimens come from Este (alphabet plaques), the Cadore (Lâgole and Auronzo) and the Gailtal (at the latter sites with the text inscribed not in grid lines, but around the rim or frame, sometimes with an image in the centre; see Gambacurta 2002, 104 ff. and Marchesini 2013, 45 f.). See Vetter 1957,

²⁷ Against this segmentation, but rather with an Etruscan suffix *-θe/-te* forming ethnic names, Marchesini, as mentioned by De Simone 2013, 68.

387 for the theory that such a plaque may have been attached at the petrograph wall of Steinberg. The alphabet used is notably not one of the Venetoid variants found in other inscriptions from North Tyrol, but the Sanzeno alphabet. In light of a Venetic inscription found at the same site (*It 1; Schumacher 2009), IT-5 may be an import or the work of a travelling dedicant.

ST-2

The Steinberg petrographs ST-1–3 were first published in Vetter 1957, but the definitive decipherment was only achieved by Schumacher 2004, 342 ff. (see also Zavaroni 2004). Schumacher's reading of ST-2 as a two-part name formula in the pertinentive is definitive; I am here concerned with the exact form of the individual name.



Fig. 32: Rock inscription ST-2 (length ca. 73 cm, turned 90° clockwise). Schneidjoch, community Brandenberg (North Tyrol). Detail from Schumacher 2004, 366 (Taf. 18).

The first letter of the inscription, a hasta with a large pocket which does not appear to be closed at the bottom, is usually read as rho ϱ (Schumacher 2004, 345). However, two recent finds from the Inntal feature a similar character which is better identified as a Venetoid form of pi π (here π) – see IT-4 above and IT-8 (p. 94; thus already Zavaroni 2004, 49 f.). The adduction of comparanda for the individual name in ST-2 is precluded by another difficulty in the reading, due to a lacuna in the upper area between letters 5 and 7. Only a hasta remains of the sixth letter; it follows the curve of the second hasta of preceding epsilon ε in much the same way as the hastae in the final parts of ST-1, 2 and 3 do. Schumacher 2004, 353 reads iota and consequently *ritauesi*, which he compares with CIL III 5905 *ridaus* (from Gaimersheim near Ingolstadt). However, the hasta of following epsilon is straight again, which leaves some room in the damaged upper area between the two hastae, in which the two bars of nu ν may be detected with some effort – cf. Joppich 1971, 41, who read *ritalsesi* (with incorrect identification of epsilon as lambda). Cf. the last preserved letters of ST-2, where the hasta of lambda curves in imitation of the second hasta of alpha, but the hasta of following epsilon is straight because of lambda's bar in the upper area.

tending from the middle rather than the top of the hasta, the *nu*-ligature, and the idiosyncratic punctuation. Both inscriptions have been applied on parts of the wall which must have presented a challenge to the writer. Also, the structure of the texts is roughly similar: the patronym appears in the middle, preceded by a sequence which does not seem to encode an individual name, and followed by another sequence of comparable length. This suggests that the two inscriptions were written by persons who shared a background in the same writing tradition. As already observed by Vetter 1957, 390, the position of ST-6 – starting at the beginning of ST-3, its first letter back-to-back with that of ST-3 (separated by a frame line) – suggests that these inscriptions are younger. If a chronological parameter is involved, ST-5 may, like ST-6, be a younger inscription, which could explain the inconvenient positions of both. The epigraphical peculiarities cannot at this point be classified. An affinity with the Venetic sphere is indicated by Cadore-style lambda and possibly heta 𐌕 in ST-5. However, punctuation of suffixes rather than syllabic punctuation is not known from Venetic; the ligatures stand isolated as well.

Of the new petrograph testimonies from Achenkirch, the dextroverse inscriptions AK-1.11 as well as the fragmentary AK-1.10, AK-1.17, AK-2.1 and AK-2.2 share some of the abovementioned characteristics. Particularly AK-1.11 $\text{𐌚}^? \text{ker} \cdot (a) \text{nu} \cdot \text{alekas}^?$ is similar, featuring the (hardly distinguishable) ligature plus puncts in the middle, as well as ζ , 𐌕 and 𐌕 .

5. New inscriptions in TIR²⁹

AS-22

The beaker, a model quite typical for the site, was found in the Bostel settlement in Rotzo on the Altopiano during excavations in 2003 or 2004, probably in structure C1 (find no. 14/3 s.f.). Fragmented, but restored with new material, it bears the mark $\text{𐌕} \text{𐌕}$ vel sim. in three places in different states of preservation.

²⁹ Not discussed in detail are a handful of additional, non-script sequences on objects with previously published inscriptions (WE-5.2 𐌕 , AS-20.3 $\text{𐌕} \text{𐌕}$ and AS-23.2 $\text{𐌕} \text{𐌕}$), as well as a number of doubtful and ultimately illegible rock inscriptions from Unterammeggau (UG-1.3, UG-1.4, UG-3.1, UG-3.2) not mentioned in Schumacher 2016, and the petrographs from Achenkirch (AK-1.1–1.21, AK-2.1–2.3), which will be published separately.



Fig. 35: Beaker from Bostel di Rotzo (diam. foot 5.3 cm) with inscriptions AS-22.1 (above), AS-22.2 (below) and AS-22.3. Museo Archeologico dell'Altopiano dei Sette Comuni, find no. 14/3 s.f. (on exhibition).³⁰ Examined in October 2015. Drawing by Gudrun Bajc for TIR.

AS-22.1 and AS-22.2 are inscribed on the narrow bottom of the beaker, the tops of the characters pointing towards the foot. The characters take up the entire breadth of the bottom. In AS-22.1, the upper bar of \mathfrak{F} is damaged by a break; in AS-22.2, only the upper part including both bars of \mathfrak{F} is left. AS-22.3 is inscribed on the foot of the beaker. \mathfrak{M} on one of the fragments, with almost straight hastae, is just distinguishable. The adjacent fragment which must bear \mathfrak{F} is less well preserved; a hasta and upper bar may only be guessed at. The sequence is most probably a local workman's mark – cf. AS-19.2, AS-20 (thrice), AS-21 (twice) and AS-23 (twice).

NO-19

The object is a fragment of a votive figure cut out of bronze sheet from Meclo in the Val di Non.³¹ It is hard to determine what sort of figure it was part of – the edges are abraded, no hole for an attachment is left. It may have been the arm of a human figure, cf. the examples shown in Marzatico 2001, fig. 62 (especially no.s 10 and 11 from the Hochbühel near Meran) and fig. 75 (from Meclo). Scratched lines run all along the fragment.

³⁰ Thanks to Benedetta Prosdocimi of the Soprintendenza per i beni archeologici del Veneto for organising and accompanying our visit to the Museo Archeologico.

³¹ Our thanks go to Silvano Zamboni of the Castello del Buonconsiglio for submitting this piece and also the miniature pail (BZ-25 below) for examination.

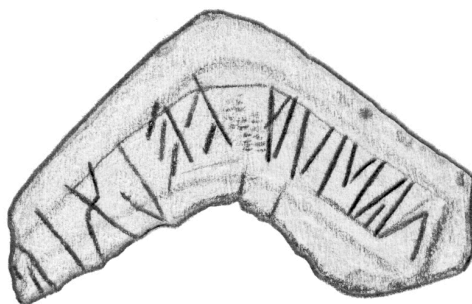


Fig. 36: Fragment of a votive figure from Meclo (max. breadth 1.3 cm) with inscription NO-19. Castello del Buonconsiglio Trento, inv. no. 6012 (repository). Examined in October 2014. Drawing by Gudrun Bajc for TIR.

The definitely language-encoding part is inscribed between a chased ornament (?) in the bend of the fragment and its narrower end (length 1.7 cm, letter height 0.5 cm). The first four letters are well legible; the following hasta is probably iota. The last letter is incomplete due to the damage sustained by the rims of the thin sheet. The preserved parts are a hasta and two bars, the upper one very close to the upper edge – the options are \mathfrak{A} and \mathfrak{A} . The votive piece has a quite appropriate length for a little arm, and tapers; the inscription can hardly have been longer. Therefore, we prefer $^{\circ}e$ as the typical auslaut of Raetic individual names. A name *velθie* is not otherwise attested.

$\mathfrak{A}\mathfrak{X}\mathfrak{A}\mathfrak{A} \mid ?$

velθie $\mid ?$

The other part of the inscription appears to be complete as well, extending between the ornament in the bend and a chased oblique line (length 1.8 cm). The lines are well distinguishable, but cannot be convincingly arranged into discrete letters (maybe \mathfrak{V} and \mathfrak{V} on the left?). Also, the overall zig-zaggy look and near-symmetrical effect indicate an ornament or a pseudo-script line filler – cf. similar dubious accompanying inscriptoids of SZ-3 and SZ-22.2, as well as NO-9.

SZ-84

The fragmentary Sanzeno bowl from Sanzeno is an old finding; its inscription is also included in MLR (222). A single character \mathfrak{A} (height 1.6 cm) is inscribed on the bottom, incised before firing; the bowl is broken along one of the hastae. No Sanzeno bowls with language-encoding inscriptions are known; the character is probably a factory or other kind of mark.

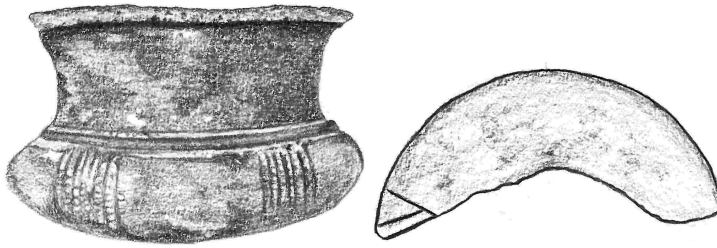


Fig. 37: Fragmentary bowl from Sanzeno (height 5.8 cm) with inscription SZ-84. Tiroler Landesmuseum Ferdinandeum, inv. no. 11.995a (repository). Examined in November 2013.

SZ-85

The complete (restored) Sanzeno bowl is another old finding from Sanzeno, and also included in MLR (221 and 236, duplicated). Two characters ∇ are incised on the bottom (height 1.8 cm) – again, probably a pottery mark.

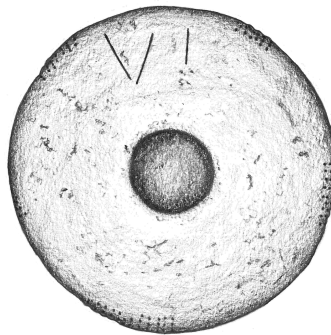


Fig. 38: Bowl from Sanzeno (max. diam. 9.4 cm) with inscription SZ-85. Tiroler Landesmuseum Ferdinandeum (repository, no inv. no.). Examined in November 2013.

SZ-86

Another old finding, the fragmentary bowl with S-shaped profile from Sanzeno (two fragments) bears four characters $\mathfrak{A}|\mathfrak{A}$ *ipie* vel sim. (height 0.8 cm, length 1.5 cm), incised on the bottom. The scratches are of different depth, some are hardly legible. Different combinations of strokes are possible; Marchesini (MLR 185) reads $\mathfrak{A}|\mathfrak{A}$ *upie*. In consideration of the fact that no other Sanzeno bowl or bowl with S-shaped profile bears a language-encoding inscription, the scratchings are probably non- or pseudo-script.

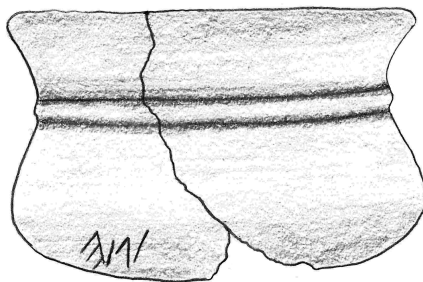


Fig. 39: Fragmentary bowl (height 5 cm) from Sanzeno with inscription SZ-86. Tiroler Landesmuseum Ferdinandeum. inv. no. 12.606 (repository). Examined in November 2013.

SZ-88

The iron hoe from Sanzeno–Casalini (found in 1951 during excavations) is published in Fogolari 1960, 276 (no. 87), Nothdurfter 1979, 126 (Taf. 23, no. 334; the characters are not in the drawing) and Zamboni 2011, 459 (fig. 3.11.c).

The sequence *lV upi* is embossed twice on either side of the tang above the socket. Both sequences are damaged by corrosion; SZ-88.1 (height 1.1–1.7 cm, length 2.7 cm) is more easily legible than SZ-88.2 (height ca. 1.8 cm, length 2.7 cm).

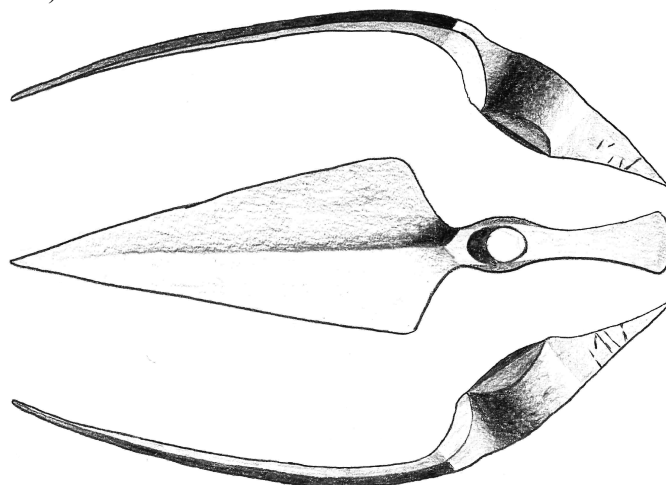


Fig. 40: Iron hoe from Sanzeno (length 48 cm) with inscriptions SZ-88.1 (below) and SZ-88.2. Castello del Buonconsiglio Trento, inv. no. 8087 (on exhibition). Examined in October 2014.

lV recurs on objects from Sanzeno, usually twice and on opposite sides of the object. Of eight inscribed objects, six are heavy iron farming implements (in addition to the present one SZ-39, SZ-43, SZ-79, SZ-92, SZ-93; on the latter two see below) which may well come from the same smithy; an interpretation of the short sequence as a factory mark is therefore likely. The occurrence on a Sanzeno bowl (SZ-27, also twice on the object) may be considered as a counter-argument; the occurrence on a bronze situla (SZ-95, only once; see below) is also unique.

SZ-90

The fragment of a ceramic vessel from Sanzeno–Casalini, found in 1927 during excavations, appears to be unpublished; the inscription is also included in MLR (188).

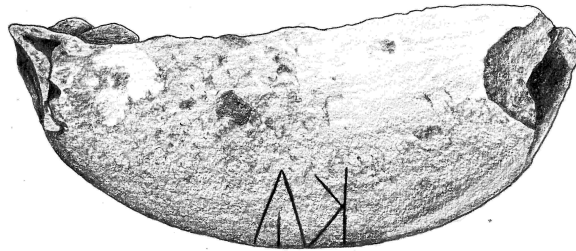


Fig. 41: Fragment of a ceramic vessel from Sanzeno (length 12.9 cm) with inscription SZ-90. Castello del Buonconsiglio Trento, inv. no. 7061 (repository). Examined in October 2014.

Well legible $\Lambda\chi$ *ka* or KV *kχ* (height 2.2 cm), depending on the point of view, is incised on that part of the rim which has been formed into a handle. The central line of the second character does not touch the other two. Two-character sequences with initial kappa and a vowel letter are quite frequent in the Raetic corpus; cf. $\Lambda\chi$ on a bronze votive pail (BZ-25 below), also (doubtful) on the handle of a simpulum (SZ-19).

SZ-91

The small potsherd from a vessel of unknown type from Sanzeno–Casalini, found during excavation in 1951, is published in Fogolari 1960, 273 (no. 11). Characters are inscribed on both sides; the traces on the inside (SZ-91.1) are included in MLR (190).

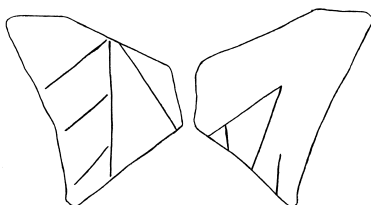


Fig. 42: Potsherd from Sanzeno (length 3.5 cm) with inscriptions SZ-91.1 (left) and SZ-91.2. Castello del Buonconsiglio Trento, inv. no. 8011 (repository). Examined in October 2014.

SZ-91.1 on the inside is well legible ꝛ (height 2.6 cm); of the character before it, only part of an oblique line is left. SZ-91.2 on the outside consists in the remains of the upper part of ꝛ vel sim.; various scratches on either side of it might be remains of further characters.

SZ-92

The iron axe, found at Sanzeno in 1955 during excavations, is published in Fogolari 1960, 289 (no. 22) and tav. V (5, 6).

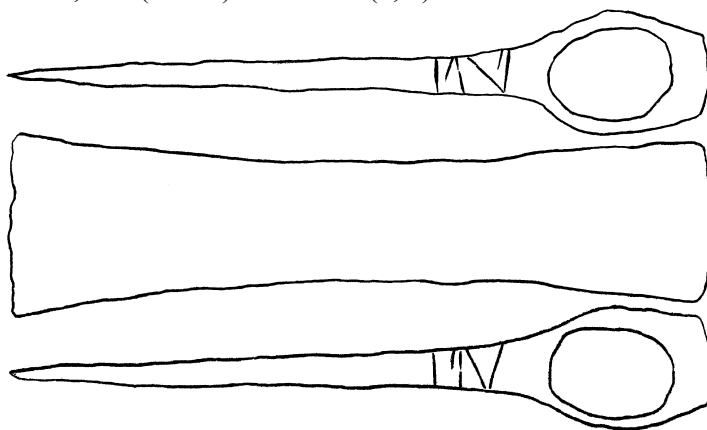


Fig. 43: Iron axe from Sanzeno (length 21.8 cm) with inscriptions SZ-92.1 (above) and SZ-92.2. Castello del Buonconsiglio Trento, inv. no. 9335 (repository). Examined in October 2014.

The sequence ꝛꝛ upi is, as usual, embossed twice, on either side of the blade just below the socket. Both sequences (SZ-92.1 height 1.1–1.5 cm, length 2.4 cm; SZ-92.2 height 1.1 cm, length 2.2 cm) are well legible despite corrosion. On ꝛꝛ see SZ-88 above.

SZ-93

Another iron axe, from the same excavation as the one with SZ-92, is also published in Fogolari 1960, 289 (no. 21) and tav. V (6, 7).

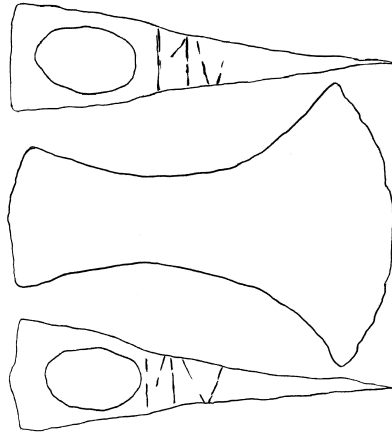


Fig. 44: Iron axe from Sanzeno (length 15.6 cm) with inscriptions SZ-93.1 (below) and SZ-93.2. Castello del Buonconsiglio Trento, inv. no. 9336 (repository). Examined in October 2014.

Again, $\uparrow\downarrow$ *upi* is embossed twice on either side of the blade, just below the socket. Though damaged by corrosion, both sequences (SZ-93.1 height 1.8 cm, length 3.1 cm; SZ-93.2 height 1.7–2.4 cm, length 2.9 cm) are reasonably well legible. On $\uparrow\downarrow$ see SZ-88 above.

SZ-94

Engraved on a bone excavated at Sanzeno in 2005, the short inscription (height 1.3 cm, length 2.6 cm) is well legible despite some surface damage. It is also included in MLR (163).

The lines are of unequal thickness. In the third character, the short vertical line at the top, slightly offset to the left, can be interpreted as part of the hasta to read $\pi \uparrow$ (most of the longer lines in the inscription appear to be made up of multiple segments), or as a second bar to form a lopsided arrow tip to read \uparrow . In either case, the form is unclear – possibly an individual name?

$\uparrow\uparrow\uparrow\uparrow$ or $\uparrow\uparrow\uparrow\uparrow$

vepa or *vepa*

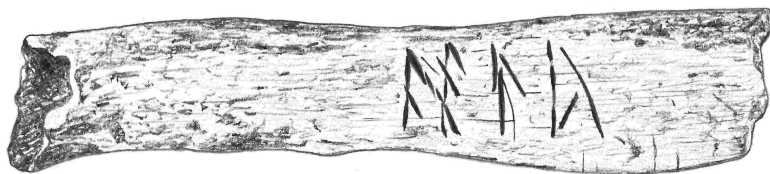


Fig. 45: Bone from Sanzeno (length 9.5 cm) with inscription SZ-94. Museo Retico Sanzeno, inv. no. SZ LAZ:05 (according to MLR 163; on exhibition).³² Examined in October 2014.

SZ-25

The complete situla, found at Sanzeno in 1951, is an unpublished museum find.



Fig. 46: Inscription SZ-95 (length ca. 9 cm) on a situla from Sanzeno. Castello del Buonconsiglio Trento, inv. no. 10647. Examined in October 2014.

The sequence I^{V} *upi* is inscribed on the inside of the rim, immediately to the left of one of the rivets securing the more upright of the two sockets for the handle. The scratches are very faint, but unambiguous. On I^{V} see SZ-88 above. In the same place, but on the outside of the rim, a row of four St. Andrew's crosses is incised.

BZ-25

Another unpublished museum find, the fragmented miniature bronze vessel from Pfatten is of the kind that was used a votive gift (cf. the material in Marzatico 2001, fig. 74).

The sequence $\Lambda\chi$ *ka* is inscribed twice on the outside of the preserved part of the object. Two characters are engraved with fine lines on the side of the little bucket (height 1.3–1.8 cm, base diam. 5.9 cm), to the right of the spot where the bottom is still attached, running upwards (BZ-25.1). Alpha is smaller than kappa and damaged by the break on the left, but unambiguous.

³² Thanks to Lorenza Endrizzi of the Soprintendenza per i beni culturali della Provincia autonoma di Trento for her help with accessing known and new finds in the Museo Retico.



Fig. 47: Inscriptions BZ-25.1 (left; height 1.8 cm) and BZ-25.2 (height 4 cm) on a miniature bronze vessel from Pfatten, Castello del Buonconsiglio Trento, inv. no. 6401 (repository). Examined in October 2014.

The characters on the bottom (BZ-25.2) are taller, equally slightly scratched and hardly legible due to a band of very fine scratches crossing the bottom of the bucket. The reading is difficult, but supported by comparison with BZ-25.1. It is not clear whether the characters are letters (an abbreviation, initials, or even a very short word) or whether we are concerned with some kind of non-language-encoding mark or maybe pseudo-script. The other two inscriptions on miniature bronze objects (NO-3 and NO-19 from Meclo, above) are definitely language-encoding and do not serve as comparanda. Cf. SZ-90 above on attestations of *ka*.

BZ-27

This one and the following two fragments come from the same hoard find as BZ-26 *[i:terisn]*, published in Lunz/Morandi 2003 (see there p. 342 ff. for details about the find), which was found in 1975 on the Kosman property in Jenesien north of Bozen. All in all, seventeen of the small fragments of Negau helmets bear characters – some can be excluded to represent script, but some might be the remains of language-encoding inscriptions. The sequences on the three fragments included in TIR are the longest and most suggestive specimens.³³

The present fragment is deformed and damaged by heat and corrosion, bent along the hasta of nu, but the letters (height 1.4 cm, length of the remains about 3 cm) are clearly identifiable (despite having been inexpertly traced with white paint). The drawing in fig. 48 shows the fragment as it would look unbent.

³³ A photo of the other thirteen fragments, the scratchings traced in white paint, can be found in TIR (http://www.univie.ac.at/raetica/wiki/File:EX-66_photo.jpg). Non-script sequences on Negau helmets are quite frequent, both together with inscriptions and on their own, see Nedoma 1995, 30 (n. 46) and Urban/Nedoma 2002, 55 (Taf. 1).

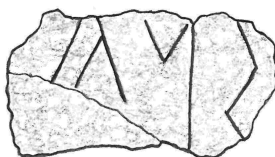


Fig. 48: Fragment of a bronze helmet from Jenesien (Kosman-Gut; length 2.7 cm) with inscription BZ-27. Amt für Bodendenkmäler Bozen (repository, no inv. no.). Examined in November 2014.

The letters $\Lambda \Upsilon \zeta$]sna can be clearly identified. The inscription is not unlikely to be another instance of *terisn[a]* in BZ-26, though, in BZ-27, both sigma and alpha are retrograde in comparison with that inscription.

BZ-28

The inscription (height 1.2 cm, length of the remains about 3 cm) is included in the Raetic corpus for the only clearly legible letter alpha Λ , which appears in the same form as in BZ-27. When it comes to the other lines, the reading is impeded not only by cracks and surface damage, but also by a sloppily applied white inlay. The leftmost character, whose hasta is clearly longer than the inlay suggests, may well be nu Υ ; in this case, the single vertical scratch before it must be iota. To the right of alpha, two scratches cut short at the bottom can be seen – possibly upsilon Υ ? A reading $\Upsilon \Lambda \zeta$ seems plausible, but the condition of the piece is too bad to be certain.

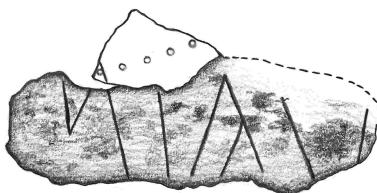


Fig. 49: Fragment of a bronze helmet from Jenesien (Kosman-Gut; length 3.6 cm) with inscription BZ-28. Amt für Bodendenkmäler Bozen (repository, no inv. no.). Examined in November 2014.

BZ-29

The reading of the inscription (height 1.8 cm, length of the remains about 3 cm) is impeded by surface damage and the often doubtful white inlay. The rightmost character can be read nu Υ , but the lines following it (as traced with the white paint) cannot be easily arranged into letters. The third letter

might be upsilon \vee , though the lines are askance. On the very left, an oblique hasta with three bars (the lowest one possibly slighter than the others, and not traced) may well be epsilon Ϳ ; if the uppermost bar reaches the bottom of the line as the other two do, possibly alpha Ϳ .

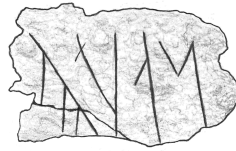


Fig. 50: Fragment of a bronze helmet from Jenesien (Kosman-Gut; length 3.7 cm) with inscription BZ-29. Amt für Bodendenkmäler Bozen (repository, no inv. no.). Examined in November 2014.

VN-16

The fragmentary bone point – only the tip with part of the drilled hole is preserved – was found in the Ganglegg settlement above Schluderns in the Vinschgau, in the corridor of house G', during excavations in 2001, and published in Gamper 2006, 127 (with Abb. 63.13). On bone points and the ritual abandonment of houses, see Gamper 2006, 145. The present object was found together with another bone point (inv. no. G 2001.209) bearing only an ornament or pseudo-script (Gamper 2006, 127 with Abb. 63.12; filed as EX-17 in TIR).

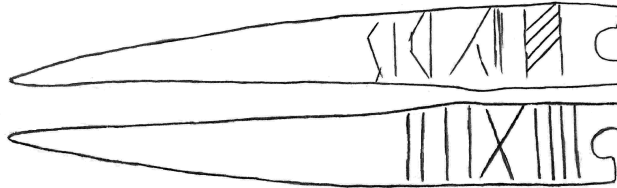


Fig. 51: Fragmentary bone point from the Ganglegg (length 9.5 cm) with inscription VN-16. Vintschger Museum, inv. no. G 2001.211 (on exhibition).³⁴ Examined in September 2014.

The inscription (length 3 cm) runs from the drilled hole towards the tip. The scratches appearing black on the light bone surface, legibility is impeded by dark marks and blots, but all letters except the first one are unambiguous. In

³⁴ Thanks to Gabi Oberwegser and Michael Böttner at the Vintschger Museum for allowing us to examine the unpublished material in the museum.

the right, more heavily scorched area, a group of scratches seems to make up a form like heta with four bars, but such a variant is not attested elsewhere in Raetic context.

§|Q|A?

?aris

Cf. maybe VN-8 with possibly a name in the genitive *χaris* (and a similar execution of sigma with a short lower bar), but there is nothing to suggest that rare Raetic heta could alternate with chi.

On the reverse side, a neat sequence ||||X|||| (length 2.6 cm) of unknown function is inscribed – the symmetry indicates an ornament, but obscure para-script sequences are too frequent on the Ganglegg finds to be certain.

VN-17

The object, a calcined fragmentary piece of worked bone (maybe a grip plate) from the Ganglegg, was probably found during the same excavation as the bone point with VR-12, but remained unpublished.



Fig. 52: Fragmentary bone object from the Ganglegg (length 6.5 cm) with inscription VN-17. Vintschger Museum, inv. no. G 2011.44 (on exhibition). Examined in September 2014.

Although the worked object is unlike the other inscribed objects from the Ganglegg (bone points and unworked bones), the inscription (height 1.1–1.4 cm, length of the remains 4.5 cm) resembles some of the others in form, in that it features a separator and a two-character sequence of uncertain function (cf. VN-7.1, VN-10, VN-11). Running towards the broader end, the lines are thin and black on the calcined surface, but well visible. The first letter is kappa: the bars are crossing on the right, but a hasta is visible along the breaking edge.

VX·§|X|

]ke·θu

The sequence VX, here separated from the other characters by a pronounced mark, also occurs in VN-8 *χaris θu*.]ke could be the final part of an individual name.

VN-18

The object is a complete perforated bone point, found on the Ganglegg in house M during excavations in 1997, published in Steiner/Gamper 1999, Taf. 9.7 (also Gamper 2006, 133 with Abb. 73.3). Like VN-16, it was deposited during the ritual abandonment of the house, but in this case no further material was found.

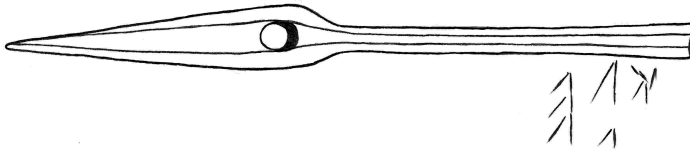


Fig. 53: Bone point from the Ganglegg (length 12.7 cm) and inscription VN-18. Vintschger Museum, inv. no. G 97/207a (on exhibition). Examined in September 2014.

The characters (height up to 1.4 cm) are inscribed near the end of the handle. Slightly scratched, the letters, being fairly tall, wind around the object; final epsilon ϵ almost makes the full round. The lines of particularly untidy kappa κ are repeatedly scratched. The second letter cannot be identified with certainty: the distinguishable lines suggest shortish upsilon υ , but this would not fit in with tip-down V in the other testimonies from the Ganglegg. The faint traces of another angle below the first indicate ϵ or λ , as tall as the third letter, with the middle part gone. The inscription probably belongs with the non- or pseudo-script documents from the Ganglegg; cf. especially VN-12.

VN-19

The fragment of an unworked square shinbone was found on the Ganglegg, Terrasse T7 or 8, during excavations in 1999 (Gamper 2006, 209 [Abb. 149]).

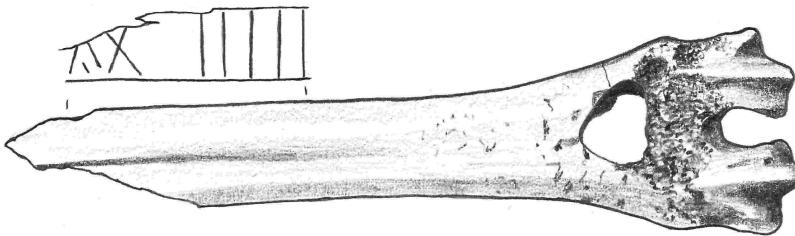


Fig. 54: Bone from the Ganglegg (length 9.4 cm) and inscription VN-19. Vintschger Museum, inv. no. 1999/985 (on exhibition). Examined in September 2014.

The characters (height 1.1 cm, length of the remains 3.1 cm) are very faintly scratched. Five vertical lines are followed at a little distance by St. Andrew's cross and alpha Λ , both damaged at the top:] Λ X IIII. θa [might be the beginning of a language-encoding sequence, but, judging by the length of the bone, not much seems to be missing. The inscription is probably one of the para-script documents from the Ganglegg; cf. especially VN-5.1, VN-6 and VN-7.2, all with rows of vertical lines accompanied by letter-like characters.

SI-1

One of two ceramic fragments from the Rungger Egg near Seis am Schlern to be included in TIR, the present object was found during excavations in 1985, and published in Gleirscher et al. 2002, 162 (with pl. 77.2). The new sigla code SI was created for the Seiser Alm and the Schlern area, a sub-mountainous area east of Bozen and the Eisack river. Given that the Rungger Egg was a burnt-offerings site, the great mass of ceramic fragments must be assumed to be the result of ritual destruction (Gleirscher et al. 2002, 125 f.). A lot of fragments bear characters, but these are mostly basic signs.³⁵

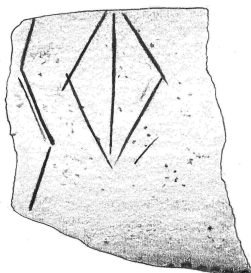


Fig. 55: Potsherd from the Rungger Egg (length 2.9 cm) with inscription SI-1. Amt für Bodendenkmäler Bozen, inv. no. 33-1/53 S (repository).³⁶ Examined in November 2014.

The potsherd with inscription SI-1 was found in area 53, quadrant S. It is part of the rim of a Sanzeno bowl (Gleirscher et al. 2002, 162 and Taf. 77.2). The characters] \S \Diamond were incised before firing on the inside of the bowl.

³⁵ We find simple lines, chevrons, St. Andrew's crosses and combinations of such and similar basic characters, such as the asterisk; variations of the octothorpe appear repeatedly – see the plates in Gleirscher et al. 2002.

³⁶ Our thanks go to Roland Messner for his efforts in providing the inscribed pottery from the Rungger Egg for our examination.

SI-2

The fragment of the bottom of a bowl with omphalos with inscription SI-2 was found in area 53, quadrant L (Gleirscher et al. 2002, 163, Taf. 83.17). The sequence ||X|| was incised after firing on the outside.

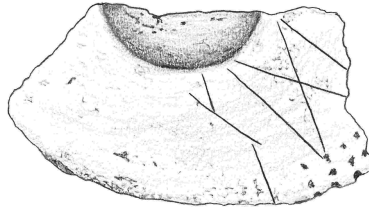


Fig. 56: Potsherd from the Rungger Egg (length 7.2 cm) with inscription SI-2. Amt für Bodendenkmäler Bozen, inv. no. 33-1/53 L (repository). Examined in November 2014.

The two examples included in TIR are the lengthiest sequences and the ones most suggestive of script, though it must be assumed that they belong in kind with the other marks. The fact that some of the scratchings were incised before, some after firing may suggest that the many marks on pottery from the ritual place represent different kinds of inscriptions (e.g. actual pottery marks vs. pseudo-script characters incised specially for the offering). In any case, no clearly language-encoding inscriptions are known from the site.

WE-6

The fragmentary Sanzeno bowl from Mellaun in the Eisacktal is an old finding; it is also included in MLR (72).

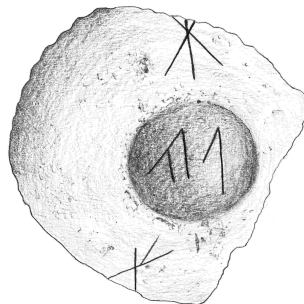


Fig. 57: Fragmentary bowl from Mellaun (length 6.9 cm) with inscription WE-6. Tiroler Landesmuseum Ferdinandeum, inv. no. 11.556 (repository). Examined in November 2013.

Two characters $\Lambda^1 la$ (height 1.2–1.5 cm) are inscribed in the omphalos; the left hasta of alpha is shortened – a peculiarity also found in the same sequence on scythe rings from Sanzeno (see SZ-76 [p. 59]). Beside the inscription, two symbols X (the top half missing) and X (height 1.5 cm) are incised on opposite sides on the bottom of the bowl.

IT-6

The stone object, published in Tischer 2006, 216 (with Abb. 13), was discovered in house no. 3 in the settlement on the Hörtenberg near Pfaffenhofen (North Tyrol) during a rescue excavation in 2005. It is also included in MLR (96).

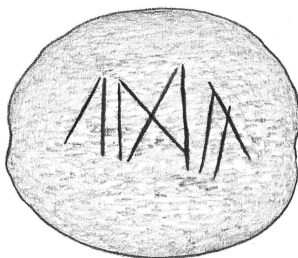


Fig. 58: Stone from Pfaffenhofen (Hörtenberg; length 6.5 cm) with inscription IT-6. Landeskonservatorat für Tirol (repository; no inv. no.). Examined in July 2014.

The small, not quite spherical worked stone is perforated lengthwise and bears an inscription $\Lambda^1 \text{X} \Lambda^1 ai\theta iu$ vel sim. (length about 3.5 cm), engraved on one of the flatter sides. The two vertical scratches on both sides of St. Andrew's cross are very close to the latter, so that one may as well read butterfly-san X . Use of object as well as nature and function of the inscription are unclear. The only comparandum is SR-11 $\text{V} \Lambda^1 iaiu$ on a much larger stone from the Montesei di Serso, which, however, is unperforated and too heavy to be carried about, and features a cross on the other side.

IT-7

The iron plaque, probably a fitting of some kind, damaged and corroded, was found during the same rescue excavation as IT-6, but in house 7, and published in Tischer 2006, 216).

The sinistroverse inscription (letter height 1.4–2.6 cm) is also fragmentary. The characters are tidily embossed, using the entire breadth of the plaque with long hastae made out of up to three strokes. The object is broken

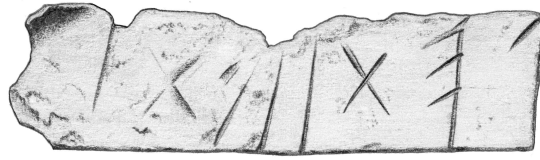


Fig. 59: Fragmentary iron plaque from Pfaffenhofen (Hörtenberg; length 9.6 cm) with inscription IT-7. Landeskonservatorat für Tirol (repository; no inv. no.). Examined in July 2014. Drawing by Gudrun Bajc for TIR.

on the right side along the hasta of lambda. The uppermost bar of epsilon is still well discernible in a patch of slight corrosion. After small St. Andrew's cross, three vertical strokes of increasing inclination are damaged in the upper area: probably Λ . Of the second small St. Andrew's cross, only the right half remains, but the continuation of the strokes on the heavily corroded left side can just be distinguished. The last discernible trace in the corroded area is that of iota.

$] \times \Lambda \times \lambda [$

$] \epsilon \theta \iota \upsilon \theta \iota [$

Provided that the reading of the middle part is correct, $\theta \iota \upsilon \theta \iota [$ can be compared with BZ-4 $\theta \iota \upsilon \theta \iota s$. The first two letters might represent the ending of a name in the pertinative, in which case the inscription (and also the object) may have been considerably longer. Small St. Andrew's cross \times , typical for Archaic Venetic (Prosdocimi 1988, 330 f.), also occurs in IT-8 (below).

IT-8

The fragmentary handle of a ceramic vessel was found in 1996 during the annual excavation on the Pillerhöhe near Fliess (North Tyrol) close to the burnt-offerings site, and is published in Tschurtschenthaler/Wein 1998, 247 (with Abb. 24; also Tschurtschenthaler/Wein 2002, 664).

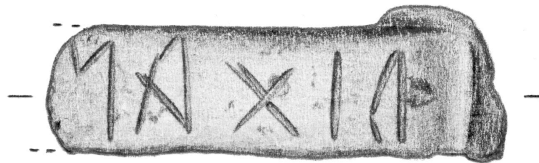


Fig. 60: Handle of a ceramic vessel from Fliess (Pillerhöhe; length 4.6 cm) with inscription IT-8. Archäologisches Museum Fliess, inv. no. Pi 293/96/1 (on exhibition). Examined in July 2014. Drawing by Gudrun Bajc for TIR.

The inscription, with a letter height of 1–1.6 cm, is incised facing outwards, starting from what was the lower part of the handle and running upwards. The letters are legible without ambiguity.

𐌱𐌹𐌰𐌶𐌰𐌸

piθan[

Initial pi rather than rho is supported by comparison of the sequence with the well attested individual name *piθamne*, especially MA-2 *piθanne* with inverted nasals in the cluster (see also n. 18). For pi with a large pocket cf. IT-4 (p. 68) and maybe ST-2 (p. 74) – the form is only known from North Tyrolean inscriptions. The same is true for small St. Andrew's cross × in Raetic inscriptions, which also occurs in IT-7 (above).

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